

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 4 1977
DATE ENTERED	JUL 25 1977

## 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

Langlade County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

800 Clermont Street

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Antigo

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Eighth

STATE

Wisconsin 54409

CODE

55

COUNTY

Langlade

CODE

067

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

#### PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

County of Langlade Board of Supervisors

STREET & NUMBER

800 Clermont Street

CITY, TOWN

Antigo

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 54409

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Langlade County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

800 Clermont Street

CITY, TOWN

Antigo

STATE

Wisconsin 54409

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin's Historic Preservation Plan: The Inventory

DATE

1976

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Langlade County Courthouse, Antigo, is a three-story Neo-Classical Revival building built with Port Wing, Wisconsin, brownstone ashlar. It is sited in the middle of a 440-foot square city block on the site of the original frame courthouse built in 1882. A modern police administration building, built in 1970, shares the tree-lined courthouse square and is a detached structure to the north of the historic building. The modern building is an intrusion on the site, but because of its modest size and height constitutes only a modest detraction from the setting of the courthouse. A surface parking lot is located behind the courthouse. The square is not located in the central business district of Antigo, but is several blocks north of it in a primarily residential area.

The main (east) facade of the courthouse has an advancing portico with Doric columns in antis. The ground floor has rock-faced brownstone ashlar and the upper floors have smooth-faced ashlar with rusticated quoins. At the second level a central arched opening on center serves as the main entrance to the courthouse, reached by a symmetrical pair of stairways. The roof consists of intersecting gables which meet at the base of an essentially Beaux Arts cupola consisting of a square base, with engaged colonettes, and round dome. Simpler advancing porticos are located on the side (north and south) facades. At the ground level these have pedimented entrances. The original doors have been replaced by glass doors with aluminum frames. Combination storm-screen sash have been placed over the original windows, which remain intact.

The interior of the building is arranged around a two-story central rectangular space covered by a stained-glass skylight. The skylight has been covered over but is restorable with intact stained glass. In general, the interior has undamaged woodwork and ornamental detailing damaged only by unsympathetic, institutional painting schemes. In the central space, Neo-Classical friezes are found at the second floor and top floor ceiling levels. At the top floor, all sides of the space are open with ballustrades except the south wall, which contains a mural illustrating the theme of liberty.

The courtroom is normally a major feature of a courthouse interior. This room, located on the top floor, has a coffered ceiling, undamaged Neo-Classical woodwork, including pedimented windows, and a mural behind the judge's bench (west wall) depicting justice seated. Except for the fluorescent lighting and pastel green paint, the courtroom is largely in original condition.

A feasibility study was conducted by an Eau Claire architectural firm in 1976 to determine whether to replace or refurbish this courthouse. The firm determined it would be economically and culturally best to refurbish the building, including restoration of such items as the covered skylight. As a result of this study, the county board, on May 6, 1976, formally requested the nomination of this building to the National Register of Historic Places. The actual restoration of the building is presently neither scheduled nor funded. However, the feasibility study is on record and the county now appears committed to follow its recommendations.

# 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Kinney and Detweiler, Minneapolis

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The courthouse embodies the "distinctive characteristics of a ... period ... of construction," the third criterion of eligibility. In detail, form and ornamentation, the building is representative of the Neo-Classical Revival period. The architects for the building were Frank W. Kinney and Menno S. Detweiler, who had formed a partnership for a brief period in Minneapolis. At least Kinney was involved with the design of the contemporaneous Lafayette County Courthouse in Darlington, a building similar in many ways with the Antigo courthouse but superior in detail and execution.

Langlade County was organized by the state legislature in 1879 as the "County of New." In 1880 the present county name was adopted and, in 1882, a county courthouse was built on the site of the present building. The original frame building was replaced in 1905 by the present building. In preparing plans, a building committee emphasized frugality in planning and construction, admonishing the architects at least once to redesign to reduce costs. This probably accounts for the somewhat spartan appearance of this courthouse compared to its more elaborate sister in Darlington.

A field survey of Antigo conducted in 1976 revealed this to be the most monumental building in the city, rivaled only by the smaller Antigo City Hall, a 1900 building by the Milwaukee firm of Van Ryn and DeGelleke. It has become locally perceived, therefore, to be the most significant landmark in the county.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Desureau, Robert M. History of Langlade County. Antigo: Berner, 1922.
- Sanborn-Perris Maps, Antigo, Wisconsin (1896-1929)
- Larson, Brian F., AIA, Letter to Jeff Dean dated March 2, 1976.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4.444 (193,600 sq. ft.)  
 UTM REFERENCES

Coordinates (UTM not available)  
 45° 08' 38" N  
 89° 09' 18" W

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The county courthouse is located in the center of a 440-foot-square city block bounded by Clermont Street on the east, Second Avenue on the north, North Street on the west, and Third Avenue on the south. The main facade of the building faces east.

## 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

Jeffrey M. Dean, State Preservation Planner

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

November 23, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

608/262-9504

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Richard Steiner*

TITLE

Acting Director  
 State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

1/25/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Charles Steiner*

DATE

7/25/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Charles Steiner*

DATE

7-22-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER