

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

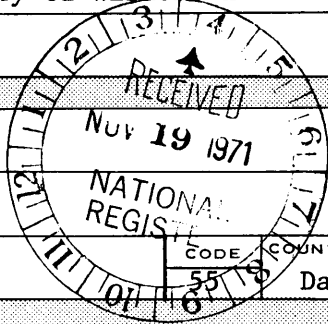
STATE: Wisconsin	
COUNTY: Dane	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER: FEB 23 1977	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: State Historical Society of Wisconsin	Congressmen to be notified: Sen. William Proxmire Sen. Gaylord A. Nelson Rep. Robert W. Kastenmeier
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 816 State Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Madison	
STATE: Wisconsin	CODE COUNTY: 53706 Dane
	CODE 025



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Library, Research Center

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: State Historical Society of Wisconsin	
STREET AND NUMBER: 816 State Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Madison	STATE: Wisconsin
	CODE 55

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: City-County Building	
STREET AND NUMBER: 210 Monona Avenue	
CITY OR TOWN: Madison	STATE: Wisconsin
	CODE 55

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

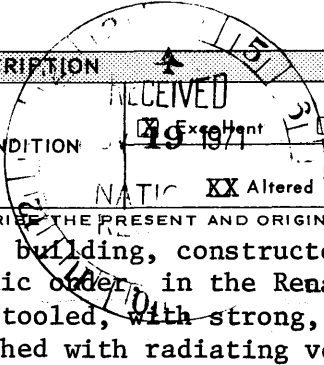
TITLE OF SURVEY: None	
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:
	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Wisconsin
COUNTY: Dane
ENTRY NUMBER: FEB 23 1977
DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	



DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building, constructed of buff Bedford limestone in 1896-1900, is "of the Ionic order, in the Renaissance style." On the first story level the stone is tooled, with strong, deep-cut horizontal lines. Window openings are flat-arched with radiating voussoirs. The original windows have been removed and the openings, still deeply inset, filled with stone which is tooled to carry out the horizontality. The main entry is a three-bayed arcade with round arches carried on strong, square piers and pedestals, each of which is decorated with a cartouche. Between the arches, ornamental hand carved consoles support a heavy balustraded extension of an Ionic colonnaded portico which is two stories in height and extends about three-fifths of the distance across the front of the building. Outer windows of the second story have either plain or segmental pediments, each with ornamentation and a cartouche on the horizontal cornice. At the third story level the windows are slightly segmentally arched, with apical ornamentation and cartouches.

Within the portico, windows at the second and third story levels light the main reading room of the library, which is a huge room a full two stories in height. Windows of the second story level are single-pane double-hung sash, while those above, which constitute a clear story, are complexly muntined fixed windows with multiple triangular panes. At both the north and south ends of the building are two-story, colonnaded, balustraded porticos, smaller but similar to that on the main facade. While the building is three-storied on the exterior, there are actually four full floors on the inside, the fourth level being fully concealed on the outside by the entablature above the third story.

The interior is characterized by mosaic tile floors, marble staircases and lower wall facings, and columns, of which some are fluted, some round, some square, some free, and some engaged. Also a variety of door openings may be found. Ceilings of main hallways and stairways are paneled and ornamented with rosettes, and are corniced. Supporting columns or pilasters are principally Ionic. At the stairway landings, ceiling entablatures are borne on moldillions, partially exemplifying the Palladian or Roman influences in the building's ornamentation.

In design the building was originally U-shaped, the main body being the base member and the stack wings the legs or vertical members. At the time of construction, however, only the southwest stack wing was built because of lack of funds. A northwest wing was completed some fourteen years later. Major interior alterations were made in 1953-1955 after the University of Wisconsin erected its own library and moved out of the building, and in 1965-1969 a major addition and interior remodeling were carried out, the addition filling in the area between and extending beyond the old stack wings to the west, greatly increasing the space for stacks, reading rooms, meeting rooms and, in the basement, museum exhibit, office and work space. Stone for the addition was taken from the same Bedford, Indiana quarry as that which the original came from at the turn of the century, and casts were made of exterior ornamental features, so that they could be repeated exactly in the new portions of the building. After the addition was completed, the old exterior was cleaned so that the old and new portions matched in color.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1846; 1900; 1955

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In architecture, the State Historical Society's building is one of the state's outstanding examples of the resurgence of Classicism which followed the Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago. The architects, who won the commission in competition and were awarded the contract in 1896, were Ferry and Clas, the distinguished Milwaukee firm, and the building was erected in 1896-1900.

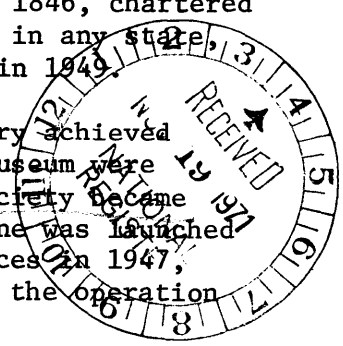
As one of the nation's great institutions of its kind, and in many ways the most unique, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin has long acted in the Wisconsin tradition of taking its services to the people as well as providing a center to which the people may come. The significance of the Society as a multifaceted educational institution, difficult to compress into a brief statement, is stated quite fairly and succinctly in the text of the Official Wisconsin Historical Marker erected to it in 1955:

Dedicated to the conservation, advancement and dissemination of the American heritage, the Society was founded in 1846, chartered in 1853. Legislative support, the first bestowed in any state, began in 1854; the Society became a state agency in 1949.

Under Lyman Copeland Draper (1854-1886) the library achieved preeminence; research, publication and a modern museum were begun. Local societies followed in 1895. The Society became the state archives in 1907. The quarterly magazine was launched in 1917, historical markers in 1952, school services in 1947, regional depositories for local research in 1951, the operation of historic sites in 1952.

Dedicated in 1900, rededicated in 1955, this building has long been a mecca for the student of American and Wisconsin history and a center for the greater public appreciation of the basic dynamics of the American experiment.

To this may be added that the Society launched its first Historymobile in 1954, taking historical exhibits to all the people of the state. And in consistently envisioning new needs and innovating programs and services to meet them, the Society established the Mass Communications History Center in 1955, the Wisconsin Center for Theatre Research (in co-sponsorship with the University of Wisconsin) in 1960, and the Contemporary Social Action Collection in 1964, thus continuing today the tradition and foresight upon which rests its position in the fore among similar institutions.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lord, Clifford L., and Carl Ubbelohde, Clio's Servant: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin 1846-1954, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1967, 101-126; passim.

Perrin, Richard W. E., The Architecture of Wisconsin, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1967, 98-102.

Thwaites, Reuben G., The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, "Description of the New Building," Wisconsin Historical Society, Bulletin of Information, No. 8, Madison, 1898, 16-21.

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, A Century of Service, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1948, passim.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N 43° 04' 31"	W 89° 23' 59.5"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.6

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Donald N. Anderson, Assistant Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division

ORGANIZATION: State Historical Society of Wisconsin DATE: November 4, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: Madison STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name James Morton Smith
James Morton Smith

Title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Date NOV 12 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. W. ...
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

William J. ...
 Keeper of The National Register

Date FEB 11 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS