

INTENSIVE SURVEY FORM Historic Preservation Division State Historical Society of Wisconsin

1 City, Village or Town: Ashland		County: Ashland	Surveyor: B. Wyatt D. Filipowicz	Date: 8/81 10/81	Street
Street Address: 201 W. Second Street		Legal Description: Block 76 of Ellis's & Vaughn's Additions to the City of Ashland		Acreage: approx. 1.5	
Current Name & Use: Ashland County Courthouse		Current Owner: County of Ashland; Attn: Elaine A. Stibbe, Clerk			Number
Film Roll No.	Affix Contact Prints			Current Owner's Address: Rm. 202, Courthouse, Ashland, WI 54806	
Negative No.				Special Features Not Visible In Photographs:	
Facade Orient.	Interior visited? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No				

2 Original Name & Use: Ashland County Courthouse	Source	Previous Owners	Dates	Uses	Source	Town
Dates of Construction: 1915	Source A,D					
Architect and/or Builder: H.W. Buemming, Milwaukee Henry Wildhagen, Ashland	Source B,D					

3 Architectural Significance <input type="radio"/> Represents work of a master <input type="radio"/> Possesses high artistic values <input checked="" type="radio"/> Represents a type, period, or method of construction <input checked="" type="radio"/> Is a visual landmark in the area <input type="radio"/> Other: _____ . <input type="radio"/> None.	4 Historical Significance <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with lives of significant persons <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with significant historical events <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with development of a locality <input checked="" type="radio"/> Other: _____ . <input checked="" type="radio"/> None.	Section
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Statement of Architectural Significance: Description: A planar NeoClassical design interpreted in the Beaux Arts manner, the Ashland County Courthouse is a three-story ashlar-veneer building, whose giant-order colonnade rests on a wide projecting cornice above the raised basement (ground story). A limestone parapet trims the low truncated hip roof, following the contours of the projecting corner pavilions. Anthemions mark the corners. The paired openings are rectangular, and are covered by bracketed segmental pediments on the <p style="text-align: right;">(over)</p>	Statement of Historical Significance: Formed in 1860 with La Pointe as its seat, Ashland County was formerly part of Michigan, Mackinac, Chippewa, St. Croix, and La Pointe counties. In 1892, Ashland was subdivided into present Ashland and Iron counties. The first courthouse at Ashland was a two-story frame Italianate-NeoClassical; the site is now occupied by the Ashland Post Office. The present building was completed in 1915 at a cost of \$134,363 (Source F).	Map Name
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5 Sources of Information (Reference to Above)	6 District Classification District Name: _____ <input type="radio"/> Pivotal <input type="radio"/> Contributing <input type="radio"/> Non-Contributing Initials: _____ Date: _____	Map Code
A County Records		
B Ashland Daily Press, March 25, 1920.		
C Ashland Weekly Press, September 12, 1914.		
D Building dedication plaque.		
E John C. Chapple, Ashland County, Wisconsin, Brower Book & Art Shop, Ashland, 1974. (cont.)		

7 Representation in Previous Surveys: <input type="radio"/> NRHP <input type="radio"/> WRL <input type="radio"/> Local Landmark <input checked="" type="radio"/> Other: WIHP	8 Eligibility for the National Register <input checked="" type="radio"/> Eligible <input type="radio"/> Not Eligible <input type="radio"/> Unknown local Initials: DHF Date: 10/81
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Architectural Statement (cont.):

second story of the pavilions and by laurel moldings and keystones on the third. Shallow panels divide the second and third stories. Entrances on all sides of the building are composed of double doors with diamond-grill transoms, sheltered by shallow bracketed canopies.

As the symmetry of the design would suggest, the interior plan is regular, with cross-plan halls and stair providing access to county offices. Floors and wainscoting are still the original Vermont gray veined marble<sup>C</sup>. The wide stairs at the north end of the first-floor lobby are marble, with an ornamental steel balustrade and wood railing. The original circuit courtroom in the center of the third floor retains the original maple and oak-trimmed judge's bench, jury box, and benches. The secondary courtroom on the second floor is likewise well preserved.

With its back to Lake Superior and front to the business district of Ashland, the courthouse is a symbolic link between the natural and man-made identity of the area. Surrounded by high-quality late nineteenth-century commercial buildings, the local landmark is also a pivotal element in a potential historic district. Wide lawns and trees and shrubs dignify the block-large site, front and rear; sidewalks and a curved drive to the rear serve the entrances.

Significance: A Neoclassical design executed with the severity of the Beaux Arts Style, the Ashland County Courthouse is a fine representative of a period of construction. Appropriately, the building is faced with locally-quarried sandstone, and was designed by locally-significant architect Henry Wildhagen in association with Milwaukee architect Herman W. Buecking. A native of Hanover, Germany, Wildhagen (1856-1920) was trained at the University of Hanover, and came to the United States in 1886. After designing sulphite mills for several years, Wildhagen opened an architectural office in Ashland. For nearly thirty years Wildhagen practiced in the city and throughout northern Wisconsin, and may well have been that area's most significant architect to date. Wildhagen is best-known for his impressive Richardsonian Romanesque and NeoClassical designs. Works listed in the National Register include the Bayfield Carnegie Library, the South Shore Public School in Port Wing (demolished, 1981), and the Wilmarth, Beaser, Ellis, and Ashland Middle Schools.

Aside from its significance as a fine (and then progressive) local landmark, the Ashland County Courthouse is also a pivotal element in a potential commercial historic district in the center of Ashland.

Sources of Information (cont.):

F Ashland Weekly Press, May 8, 1915.

