

1 City, Village or Town: Friendship	County: Adams	Surveyor: L. Garfield D. Filipowicz	Date: 10/14/81	Street	
Street Address: 402 Main St.		Legal Description: Lots 1-2-3-4 of Block 8; Lots 5-6-7-8 of Block 6, vacated, Third St.	Acreeage: 1.0		
Current Name & Use: Adams County Courthouse		Current Owner: County of Adams; Attn: Rita Dittburner, County Clerk			
Film Roll No.	Affix Contact Prints	Current Owner's Address: P. O. Box 278, Friendship, WI 53934			Number
Negative No.		Special Features Not Visible In Photographs:			
Facade Orient.		Interior visited? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No			

2 Original Name & Use: Adams County Courthouse	Source C	Previous Owners	Dates	Uses	Source	Town	
Dates of Construction: 1913-1914; (Addition, 1975)	Source D						Range
Architect and/or Builder: Arthur Peabody	Source E						

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: Dominated by a central pavilion with an engaged portico, the Adams County Courthouse is a NeoClassical brick building, nearly cubic in proportion, which rises from a raised basement and culminates in a low-pitched hip roof. Although modest in plan and detail, the building is transformed into a more imposing edifice by the application of simplified Neo-Classical detail. Divided horizontally by stone courses and crowned with a projecting cornice, the front facade is symmetrically composed, five
 (over)

Statement of Historical Significance:
 Although the Adams County Board adopted architectural plans for a new Courthouse at its annual sessions of 1911 and 1912,^A it was not until spring, 1913 that county voters approved the bond issue which would raise the \$30,000 needed to meet construction costs.^B Not surprisingly, the outcome was lopsided: Friendship voters approved overwhelmingly (127 in favor of the courthouse bonds; 4 opposed) while the arch-rival, village of Adams, voted the opposite (18 in favor; 158 opposed).^B

Nevertheless, the courthouse was approved, built on the site of the previous structure, and completed in 1914.

5	Sources of Information (Reference to Above)
A	Adams County Press, March 22, 1913, (Vol. 52, No. 37), p. 1.
B	Adams County Press, April 5, 1913, (Vol. 52, No. 37), p. 1.
C	Cornerstone
D	Adams County Press, Jan. 10, 1914, (Vol. 53, No. 25), p. 1.
E	Blueprints, Adams County Courthouse

6	District Classification District Name: _____ <input type="radio"/> Pivotal <input type="radio"/> Contributing <input type="radio"/> Non-Contributing Initials: _____ Date: _____	Map Code
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7	Representation in Previous Surveys: <input type="radio"/> HABS <input type="radio"/> NRHP <input type="radio"/> WRL <input type="radio"/> Local Landmark <input checked="" type="radio"/> Other: WIHP
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8	Eligibility for the National Register <input checked="" type="radio"/> Eligible <input type="radio"/> Not Eligible <input type="radio"/> Unknown Initials: LG Date: 10/81
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Architectural Statement (cont.):

window bays wide, with each window surmounted by either a stone lintel or a keystone. Although the flat and linear quality of the facade contributes an inert quality to the building, the suggestion of monumentality is present in the engaged portico which frames the central pavilion. Projecting shallowly from the facade, the portico is crowned with a limestone pediment and entablature upon which is inscribed "Adams County." Four colossal Doric pilasters support the entablature, rising from a flight of stairs which leads to the entrance. Between the pilasters, second story windows (illuminating the courtroom) are framed with fanlights and sidelights and rest on stone panels, suggesting a modified Palladian motif. The double door front entry is surmounted with a transom and set within a stone frame. Although the rear and side facades are essentially unornamented, the cornice and stone courses continue around the building. A variegated brick exterior of light red hue contrasts with the stone trim while creating a smooth surface (favored in NeoClassical architecture). Although the interiors have been generally altered, and a one-story addition constructed to the south of the building, the front facade is unencumbered by the changes. Situated in the center of the small commercial district and set back in a large courthouse lawn, the Adams County Courthouse is the outstanding visual landmark in the village of Friendship.

Significance: Conveying both a sense of restraint and the suggestion of monumentality, the Adams County Courthouse is an architecturally significant example of the Neoclassical style in Adams County. Despite its modest size and detail, the structure is the dominant visual landmark in the village of Friendship; the shallow limestone portico and broad courthouse lawn create a sense of civic grandeur and testify to the ease with which classical detail could transform the simplest cubes into imposing public buildings. Built in 1913-14, the courthouse was designed by Arthur Peabody (1858-1942), Supervising Architect for the University of Wisconsin (and later Wisconsin's first State Architect), and executed by chief construction engineer George Kieke.

