

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Wisconsin</b>
COUNTY: <b>Fond du Lac</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>JUL 15 1974</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**The Recording Angel**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Forest Mound Cemetery, North Madison Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Waupun**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**Wisconsin 2nd**

STATE:  
**Wisconsin**

CODE:  
**55**

COUNTY:  
**Fond du Lac**

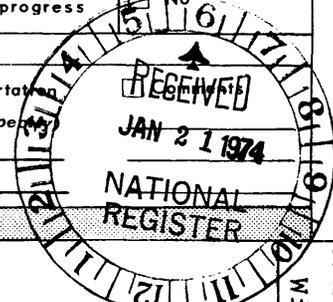
CODE:  
**039**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted No: <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<b>Memorial</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	



**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Marian Shaler Hanisch (Mrs. Arthur Hanisch)**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**940 Hillcrest Place**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Pasadena**

STATE:  
**California**

CODE:  
**06**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Forest Mound Cemetery Association, c/o National Bank**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**210 East Main Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Waupun**

STATE:  
**Wisconsin**

CODE:  
**55**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Wisconsin Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1973**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**State Historical Society of Wisconsin**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**816 State Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Madison**

STATE:  
**Wisconsin**

CODE:  
**55**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Wisconsin

COUNTY: Fond du Lac

ENTRY NUMBER: **JUL 15 1974**

DATE: **JUL 15 1974**

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

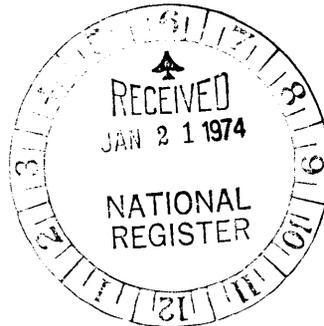
CONDITION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The statue, The Recording Angel, which Lorado Taft created in 1921-1923, is an approximately twice life-size figure of a woman, depicted with the wings of an angel, seated and holding on her lap the Book of Life. "The closed eyes and relaxed serenity of expression on the face gives to the beholder a benignity, a tranquility in his pause of reflection."

Cast in bronze, the statue now has a shiny, slate-colored patina. It rests on a grey Massachusetts granite base, standing about two feet above the ground. In the background, standing on the same base, is a large rectangular block of polished grey granite, ten feet high, with carved molding surrounding the bottom and, at the top, a simple cornice subtended by a row of eggs and darts. There is no inscription anywhere on either statue or base.



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**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1923**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input checked="" 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

Upon the death of his wife in 1921, Clarence Addison Shaler, of Waupun, Wisconsin, commissioned his good friend Lorado Taft to create this work in her memory. Taft worked on it for a month less than two years, and it was placed at the Shaler grave in October, 1923.

One of Taft's favorite quotations, which he used in every lecture he gave for a time, was from Spinoza: "I am certain that the good of this life cannot lie in the possession of those things which for one man to possess is for others to lose, but rather in those things which all may possess alike, and where each man's prosperity increases his neighbor's." Much in keeping with this spirit, Shaler informally presented The Recording Angel to the people of Waupun at the time that it was installed. Although the ownership legally remains in the Shaler family, Clarence Shaler's intention that the statue be for the public is borne out by the fact that "There is no inscription of any sort on the masterpiece and it is Mr. Shaler's plan that this is a much a gift to the whole cemetery...as to the Shaler lot alone." And his daughter, Marian Shaler Hanisch, writes, "I am sure that it was my father's wish when he commissioned the statue that it should be a source of pleasure and inspiration to many people, even though he apparently made no formal gift of it to the city."

In her brief biography of her husband, Ada Bartlett Taft includes The Recording Angel ("Shaler Memorial Angel") among his important sculptural works. It is the only Taft work that she lists in Wisconsin. The statue is of major importance to Waupun, a small city with a considerable amount of good public sculpture, and certainly of statewide significance to Wisconsin.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Hanisch, Marian Shaler, Letter to Donald N. Anderson, Jan. 4, 1974  
 Kelly, June, Waupun: City of Sculpture (Waupun, 1967), 3-4 (unnumbered)  
 Taft, Ada Bartlett, Lorado Taft: Sculptor and Citizen, (Greensboro, N. C., 1946), 88, passim.

"Memorial Statue Made By Lorado Taft Raised In Cemetery At Waupun," The Daily Commonwealth, Fond du Lac, Wis., Oct. 8, 1923

"Shaler Presents Taft Masterpiece to City," Waupun Leader, Oct. 11, 1923

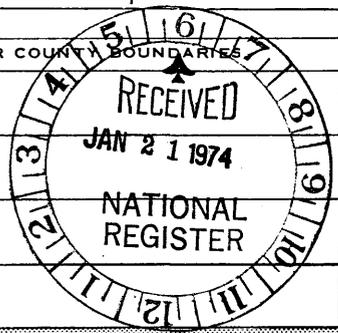
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 1.0

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

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

ORGANIZATION: State Historical Society of Wisconsin DATE: Jan. 9, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: Madison STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>James Morton Smith</u>  <u>James Morton Smith</u></p> <p>Title <u>Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin</u></p> <p>Date <u>January 11, 1974</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Donald N. Anderson</u>          Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>7/15/74</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>Ronald M. Greenberg</u>          Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>7/12/74</u></p>