

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received FEB 7 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Lancaster Municipal Building

and/or common Lancaster City Hall/Grantland Theater

2. Location

street & number 206 S. Madison St. _____ not for publication

city, town Lancaster _____ vicinity of

state Wisconsin code 55 county Grant code 043

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Lancaster, Louis T. Belscamp, Mayor

street & number 206 S. Madison Street

city, town Lancaster _____ vicinity of state Wisconsin 53813

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Grant County Courthouse

street & number 126 W. Maple Street

city, town Lancaster _____ vicinity of state Wisconsin

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wis. Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison _____ vicinity of state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Lancaster's Municipal Building is approximately two stories in heights, plus a raised basement fully visible on the north-end office portion of the building, and the additional height of the theater space on the south. A one-story, three-bay former fire station at the southeast (rear) corner now serves as the police station, while a newer one-story fire station, with large overhead door, was added at the southwest (front) corner. The theater staging rises a full story at the southeast (rear) corner behind the flat roof of the theater. Behind the newer fire station addition, a small aluminum addition fills out the building plan to a rectangle some one hundred forty-by-one hundred feet in size. The amber "Ohio matt brick"¹ walls are trimmed with white terra cotta, forming a coping along the rooflines; water table at the first-story level of the north offices; borders defining the center office entrance, and dimensions of the theater facade and mezzanine colonade; and capitals on the brick pilasters between office windows and theater colonnade.

Regularly-spaced windows in three stories along the office walls are rectangular, double-hung with wood frames; a double-hung window and fixed pane above light the stairwell above the office entrance in the center of the front facade. Framed by a shallow brick projection defined by terra cotta borders, the central first-story entrance is enclosed by transom and sidelights, and is marked with an inscription stone overhead reading "City Hall." Inscription stones identify the entrances to men's and women's rest rooms in the basement on the north side of the building, and the present fire department at the south end of the front facade. Two of three overhead doors in the former fire station have been enclosed with wood panels. The only substantial alteration to the building has been redesign (1945)² of the theater entrance to include a box office in the south end of the entrance, replacement of the double doors in the remaining two openings, and installation of an aluminum and neon canopy. (Originally, the entrance was composed of three double doors, each with a single panel of glazing and transoms, and a similar style canopy with ornament patterned to match the terra cotta trim on the building.)

Despite small additions to the southwest and southeast corners and minor changes in use, the interior plan and most of the decoration of the original building appear to be original.³ Inside the "City Hall" entrance a dog-leg stair against the front (west) wall leads to the first-floor hall and offices and second-story meeting hall. Floors are terrazo, and walls are divided, "Prairie School-style" by oak moldings, into broad bands of painted plaster. Wide oak doors with single glass panes are covered by transoms. Front-to-rear (west-to-east), the north office end of the interior includes a city clerk and treasurer's office; mayor's office, storage, and vault; and city council chambers. While the offices walls have been paneled and the ceilings covered with composition tiles, the council chambers retain their "Prairie" decoration of plaster and oak. On the second story, the large open meeting room is also "Prairie" style, with folding wood room dividers and brown brick fireplace against the east wall. The basement still includes men's and women's rest rooms, adjacent to the former fire station (now police and senior citizens center); the interior finish is utilitarian in character.

(continued)

¹ Fennimore Times, March 19, 1924.

² Building Inspection Records, City of Lancaster.

³ Based on inspection of site and blueprints, held by the City of Lancaster.

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 1923¹ **Builder/Architect** Claude & Starck¹

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

As a multi-purpose civic building rendered as a distinguished Prairie School design, the Lancaster Municipal Building represents both a type and period of construction. The surviving Prairie School interior decoration in the office portion and Neoclassical scheme of the theater contribute to the significance of the building, as does its association with important twentieth century Wisconsin architects (Louis) Claude & (Edward) Starck.

The dual nature of the building, offices and entertainment, is expressed on the exterior; two-story terra cotta-trimmed pilasters mark the rise of the office block, while a terra cotta border and colonnade suggest the interior proscenium and mezzanine of the theater. The design by Madison architects Louis W. Claude (1868-1951) and Edward F. Starck (1868-19??) corresponds in style to their Prairie School works of the early twentieth century, but differs in type from the library and residential commissions for which they were better known. Partner Louis Claude was a graduate of the general science program at the University of Wisconsin, and worked for Madison architects Conover & Porter as well as Chicago's D.H. Burnham & Co. and Adler & Sullivan. Edward Starck apprenticed with Edward Townsend Mix of Milwaukee after completing high school, and then worked for Handy & Cady of Chicago and David R. Jones of Madison. Active from 1894-1929, the firm's listed works include libraries in Wisconsin Dells (1912), Evansville (1908), Tomah (1916), Merrill (1910), Durand (1907), and Baraboo (1903); the Lincoln School (1915), William Collins House (1911), George Lougee House (1907), and Adolphe H. Kayser House (1902), all in Madison. While the combination of municipal offices, meeting room, and theater is not unique in Wisconsin, it is uncommon. (Probably the Lancaster building was inspired by the precedent set by the Richland Center City Auditorium of 1912 - NRHP 1980 - in neighboring Richland County, for whose construction special state enabling legislation was passed).

The Lancaster Municipal Building was a long-awaited replacement for a city hall that had been demolished; construction of a new building had been postponed since the pre World War I period. After debate within the building committee about whether the building ought to include a simple community auditorium or all "modern theater features," a vote decided in favor of the latter.² (Reluctance to commit more funds for the more elaborate facility was due to concern that "...experience [had] shown that municipal theaters [were] 'white elephants'..."³ to which it was difficult to attract quality entertainment and willing patrons.) The total cost of building, equipment, and site was reported to be \$130,000; it boasted fire-proofing throughout, a complete system of fan ventilators, and a theater in ivory, gold, and blue with eight hundred seats, sixteen boxes, and stage with full loft and "retiring rooms" for ladies and

¹ Blueprints. (continued)
² Grant County Herald, Wednesday, March 8, 1922.
³ Ibid.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Fennimore Times, March 19, 1924

Grant County Herald, 1922-1924

/Prairie School Review, Vol. XIV, 1981.

Orr, Gordon D., Jr., FAIA, "Louis W. Claude; Madison Architect of the Prairie School,"

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 1.25

Quadrangle name Lancaster

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	6	8	7	1	9	8	4	7	4	6	2	2	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D

Zone		Easting						Northing						

E

Zone		Easting						Northing						

F

Zone		Easting						Northing						

G

Zone		Easting						Northing						

H

Zone		Easting						Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1 & 2, Block 27, Original Plat of the village (now city) of Lancaster.

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 Diane H. Filipowicz/Architectural Historian

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date November, 1982

street & number 816 State Street telephone (608) 262-2732

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 Kenney

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 1/27/83

For NPS use only

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

for Melvyn Byers **Entered in the National Register** date 3/10/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet LANCASTER MUNICIPAL BLDG. Item number 7 Page 1

Only cosmetically altered, the interior of the theater retains its plaster-finish lobby, and ornamental plaster auditorium. The classically-inspired decoration (including swags, garlands, laurel moldings, classical friezes and borders, and pilasters with composite capitals), originally painted in ivory and gold,⁴ is now yellow and orange. The forty-by-sixty-foot eight hundred-seat auditorium, proscenium, and forty-by-twenty-six-foot stage⁵ appear to be intact. A few Art Deco wall sconces have been installed in the lobby, probably at the time that the outdoor box office was added.

The building is located opposite the southeast corner of the courthouse square, with commercial construction to the north and west, and a residential area to the south and east. The site includes service parking to the rear (east) and little vegetation.

⁴Ibid.; Grant County Herald, May 3, 1922.

⁵Blueprints.

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Continuation sheet LANCASTER MUNICIPAL BLDG. Item number 8

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gentlemen. A committee of three was appointed by the mayor to care for the "home of the city's family,"⁴ which was available for use free-of-charge to non-profit local groups and at a cost of \$8.00 per hour (for electricity and janitor) to other groups.⁵

⁴Fennimore Times, March 19, 1924.

⁵Grant County Herald, May 3, 1922.