

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 17 1976
DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Aetna Station No. 5

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

193 North Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Fond du Lac

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8th 6th

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 54935

CODE
55

COUNTY

Fond du Lac

CODE

039

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<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 Fond du Lac

STREET & NUMBER

76 East Second Street

CITY, TOWN

Fond du Lac

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 54935

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fond du Lac County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

190 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Fond du Lac

STATE

Wisconsin 54935

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin's Historic Preservation Plan: Volume II, The Inventory

DATE

1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE
Wisconsin 53706

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

Aetna Station #5 is a two-story, cream brick, Italianate building with a four-story corner hose tower capped by a belvedere containing a fire bell. Early photographs show the front elevation divided into three bays defined on the first story by pilasters with chaines and on the second story by paired pilasters. The end bays of each story contain stilted, segmental-arched windows with brick frames, stone sills, stone spring points, and carved keystones. The center bay is filled by an arched entrance on the first story and by paired windows above. The facade is organized horizontally by wooden entablatures above each story. The lower entablature, incorporating the capitals of the first-story pilasters, extends only across the front facade. The upper entablature wraps around the front and the sides and is articulated by wooden dentils under the cornice and corbeled brick dentils under the architrave. The second-story pilasters have no capitals but are marked by paired brackets. In the center bay the frieze bears the name of the station, and above the cornice is a pediment. The first story has been altered by the removal of the windows and single entrance to make room for two truck entrances which flank a smaller entrance at the center for people. The modern brick infill approximates the color of the original brick. The second story remains intact.

The side facades are divided into four bays by smooth, giant pilasters. The windows have simple, segmental arches and are unornamented except for stone sills. The tower, located in the north-east corner of the building is a separate compositional element. Each facade is divided into three bays by pilasters. Giant pilasters link the first and second stories, but the third and fourth stories are separated by a belt course. Along the top of each bay are brick dentils, and the center bay has a round-arched window. A plain, wooden entablature separates the brick tower and the wooden belvedere. The belvedere is an open structure topped by a bracketed entablature with a broad cornice. Each facade has three, round arches that spring from square pillars. At present the belvedere has been removed from the building and is undergoing restoration.

The rear of the building has been altered by the construction of a concrete block addition that provides additional storage area. The station's interior has been extensively modified to accommodate modern equipment and improved living facilities.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	Local fire protection history
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1875

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Thomas H. Green

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Aetna Station No. 5 is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural significance as a representative of a particular style of construction and the work of a local master, and for its historical significance as a landmark in the history of Fond du Lac's fire department. The building is an excellent example of the Italianate style applied to the program of a fire station. Particularly noteworthy is the attention paid to the detailing as seen in the wooden entablatures and the decorative brickwork. Since its completion in 1875, the building has been in continuous use as a fire station.

The architect, Thomas H. Green (1828-1896), arrived in Fond du Lac from New York in 1845. He apprenticed as a carpenter to Isaac Brown until 1848, and then, before opening his own architectural office in 1855, he served for a time as the city's first postmaster as well as obtaining a number of architectural commissions. He is listed in the 1857-1858 City Directory as a "practical architect" with "all orders for Drafting, Designing, and Superintending Buildings promptly attended to, and in the most approved style." From this time to the early 1890's, with the exception of the years 1861-c. 1867, when he served in the Civil War and then prospected for gold, Green was Fond du Lac's leading architect. His works include Fry's Brewery (1855), the Amory Opera House (1856), the E. H. Galloway House (1868-1880), the High School, and the Fond du Lac County Courthouse (1881). Each building is so stylistically dissimilar to the others in Green's oeuvre that it appears that he, like many nineteenth-century architect-builders, relied extensively on pattern books for his designs rather than creating buildings through a strong, personal, artistic conception.

Aetna Station #5 stands as a symbol of the growth of the city's fire department. Fond du Lac's first bucket brigade was organized in 1849, but after a severe fire in 1852 it was realized that a fully equipped fire company was needed, and in 1854 the Washington Volunteer Company #1 was organized and a \$2800 hand engine purchased. Fountain City Co. #2 and Winnebago Co. #3 were organized in 1857 and augmented in 1862 by the Fountain City Hook & Ladder Co. Station #4 and Aetna Fire Company #5 were organized in 1874, and after Aetna #5's \$20,000 station was built in 1875, it became the center of the city's fire fighting efforts. Today it serves as headquarters for the city's fully professional fire department.

Of additional local significance is the bell in the belvedere. It is inscribed with the date 1878 and was used not only for fire warnings but to signal the evening curfew, holidays, and the death of prominent officials. It is still rung on special occasions.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fond du Lac Historic Landmarks Commission - nominations, 1972.
 Fond du Lac Commonwealth-Reporter, "Fond du Lac's First Firemen Saw Their Own Station Burn to Ground." March 15, 1968.

Illustrated in: Fond du Lac, Wis., Illustrated. E. C. Williams Co., Milwaukee, 1898.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.25

UTM REFERENCES

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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D

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Richard L. Cleary

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

June 21, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

(608) 262-2970

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

James M. Smith

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

7/21/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

12/12/76

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/6/76