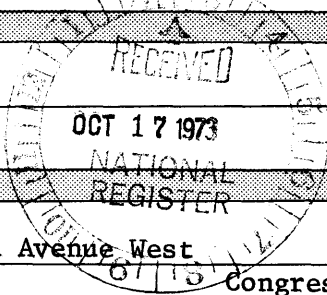


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Wisconsin</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Ashland</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>JAN 21 1974</b>



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Old Ashland Post Office**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**NW Corner 2nd Street and 6th Avenue West**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Ashland**

STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55** COUNTY: **Ashland** CODE: **003**

Congressman to be notified:  
**Rep. David Obey, Wis. 7th Dist.**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<b>Use as city</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<del>Not currently</del>	<del>hall under</del>
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<del>in use</del>	<del>study</del>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**City of Ashland**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Courthouse**

CITY OR TOWN: **Ashland** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Ashland County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Ashland** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

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

DATE OF SURVEY: **1972**  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: Ashland

ENTRY NUMBER: JAN 21 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old Ashland Post Office building, erected in 1892-1893, is a handsome, two and a half story stone structure, quite straightforwardly Richardsonian Romanesque in design and massing.

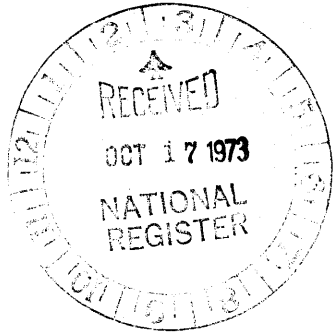
The exterior is of locally quarried, rock-faced, cut brownstone, laid in broken course. All first story window and door openings of the original building are round-arched, with moderately massive rock-faced radiating voussoirs. Windows of the second story are straight-topped. The roof is characterized by numerous steep-gabled wall dormers crowned with smooth stone coping. Dormers vary in height, width, and numbers and sizes of window openings. Window reveals are deep throughout the entire structure, in keeping with the architectural style.

At the southeast corner is a four-story square tower with a pyramidal roof. The fourth story level is open, round-arched and balustraded on all sides, and originally served as a lookout and signal station because of its commanding view of Chequamegon Bay. It was also used for taking meteorological observations.

At the north end of the building is a single-story, flat-roofed addition which was added some years after the original construction but is undoubtedly about fifty years old. It was noted in a local newspaper account of the new building as it was being completed in 1893 that already "an additional appropriation is badly needed, to make the building adequate to even the present demands..." The addition is of the same brownstone as the original building and harmonizes with it in construction and color, differing only in that the windows are straight-topped. The addition does not detract from the remainder of the building and would go largely unnoticed if attention were not called to it.

A single story frame wing with vertical board and batten siding has been built onto the west side of the building, but is really temporary construction that would be readily removable for restoration purposes and would leave no permanent marks on the original building. Aside from the exceptions mentioned, the exterior remains unchanged in general appearance, looking almost exactly as it did eighty years ago, even down to individual window details. Its condition is excellent.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1892-1893**

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

Because of the old post office's prominence in Ashland, its structural material, and its architecture, the building's local significance is unquestioned. Architectural historian Richard W. E. Perrin characterizes it as almost traditional as a landmark in the city of Ashland.

When it was built in 1892-1893, the post office was certainly one of the finest buildings of its kind in northern Wisconsin. Its design is credited to a ~~Mr. Eldebrook~~, who was an architect for the federal government. The general contractor was Forster and Smith, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and the local superintending architect was H. P. Padley, of Conover, Porter and Padley, the Ashland branch of the Madison architectural firm of Conover and Porter.

The brownstone of which the structure is built was in much demand as a building material in its day. It was used in several major buildings in Ashland, in numerous buildings in Wisconsin cities along Lake Michigan, and in buildings in some of the larger inland cities of Wisconsin as well. It was quarried on Chequamegon Bay, principally near Washburn on the mainland and on at least one of the Apostle Islands.

The city of Ashland, to which the ownership of the property reverted when a new post office was erected in the late 1930's, has no city hall and proposes to convert the old post office building to adaptive use as its municipal building.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

willoughby J. Edbrooke (see 3/5/75 letter)

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

"Ashland's Public Building," Ashland Daily Press, Annual Edition, 1893. 75.  
A Souvenir of Ashland County, Wisconsin, Pub. by C. O. Stiles, Iron Mountain, Michigan, 1904.

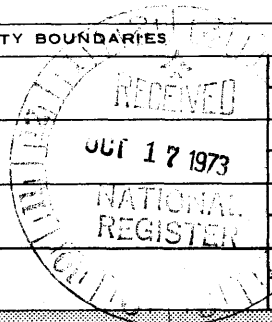
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

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

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin** DATE: **July 2, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**816 State Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Madison** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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:

National  State  Local

Name James Morton Smith  
**James Morton Smith**

Title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Date October 10, 1973

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

A. R. Montrose  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 1/21/74

ATTEST:  
Ronald D. Greenberg  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 1/16/74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

PROPERTY NAME Old Ashland PO

*Ashland County*

7	4	0	0	0	0	5	4
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REFERENCE NUMBER

W	I
---	---

STATE

0	0	3
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COUNTY CODE

New street address is 601 West Second St.

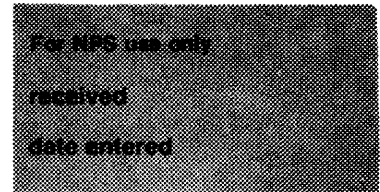
*[Handwritten Signature]*

FEB. 13, 1986

SIGNED, SHPO OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

DATE

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**



**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Continuation sheet Item number Page

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PROPERTY NAME Old Ashland PO

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7	4	0	0	0	0	5	4
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

REFERENCE NUMBER

W	I
---	---

STATE

0	0	3
---	---	---

COUNTY CODE

New street address is 601 West Second St.

---

SIGNED, SHPO OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

DATE