

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Wisconsin
COUNTY:	Bayfield
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JAN 17 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Bayfield County Courthouse

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
117 E. Fifth Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Washburn

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Seventh

STATE: Wisconsin 54891 CODE: 55 COUNTY: Bayfield CODE: 007

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Bayfield County

STREET AND NUMBER:
117 E. Fifth Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Washburn

STATE:
Wisconsin 54891 CODE: 55

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Bayfield County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
117 E. Fifth Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Washburn

STATE:
Wisconsin 54891 CODE: 55

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Wisconsin Historic and Architectural Site Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1974 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 53706 CODE: 55



STATE: Wisconsin

COUNTY: Bayfield

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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 Bayfield County Courthouse in Washburn is a two-story, Neo-Classical Revival building constructed of local brownstone and topped with a domed cupola. Its main entrance is marked by a tetrastyle portico with a flight of broad steps leading to the free standing colonnade which supports a simple architrave, unadorned frieze, and pediment. The columns are unfluted Corinthian.

The main block is divided horizontally into four units. The basement continues to the height of the portico, and it is faced with smooth stone. A single, thin course of stone separates this from the first story which is faced with smooth-faced, rusticated stone with chamfered edges separating the courses. The division between first and second stories is sharply marked by a projecting course of brownstone. The second story is faced with large smooth-finished blocks. The corners are emphasized by rusticated quoins, and the windows have slightly-projecting sills. This division is terminated by the architrave extending from the portico. The final division is a continuation of the portico's architrave, and it is terminated by a heavy, unadorned cornice. With the exception of the central window of the main facade all the windows are rectangular and undecorated. The central window is Palladian, and it opens onto a small balcony.

The cupola has a colonnaded drum, a semicircular dome, and a tall lantern.

The building has been well maintained, and the exterior has changed only by the blocking-up of a few windows. The interior has much original woodwork and is in excellent condition.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Wisconsin	
COUNTY Bayfield	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JAN 17 1975	DATE

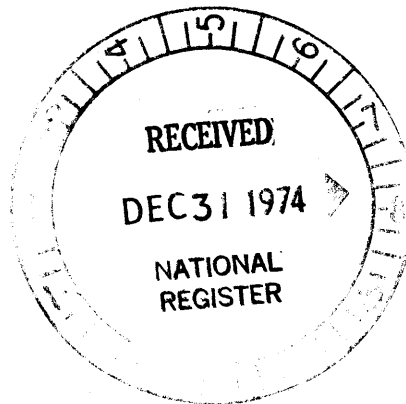
(Number all entries)

Bayfield County Courthouse, Washburn

7, Present and Original Physical Appearance.

The interior of the building is largely original. The original floors and ceilings remain along with the original stairs and woodwork. The only changes to the building since its construction have been in the area of normal maintenance, except that in 1973 all the windows in the old building were replaced with aluminum-framed windows, storms and screens.

Two additions have been made to the rear of the building. The first, directly to the rear, was built in the 1930's. The second, to the rear and side-rear, was built in 1964. The latter addition includes the county court room, and the former court room in the original building has been converted to the county board's chambers. To accomplish this the only changes made were the removal of the Judge's bench and jury box. The new additions house various offices in addition to the new court. Since the additions were made sensitively to the rear and are only half the height of the original building, they are relatively unobtrusive and have minor impact. The architectural thrust of the original building is forward to the southeast with a prominent tetrastyle Corinthian portico. The later additions to the building do not interfere with this quality.



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) 1894

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | | <u>Local history</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bayfield County Courthouse at Washburn is the result of a successful, though somewhat deceptive campaign to remove the county seat from the City of Bayfield. The building was designed by the Minneapolis firm of Off & Joralemann and constructed by John Halloram, a Washburn contractor, at a cost of around \$40,000. The building is a fine example of the rather uncommon use of Lake Superior brownstone in a Neo-Classical Revival structure.

The town of Washburn was founded in 1883 and boomed as a lumber town. By 1892 it was considerably larger than the county seat, Bayfield, and a number of residents decided to attempt to have the seat moved to Washburn. A committee was formed, and H.H. Hayden, an Eau Claire lawyer, was hired to engineer the removal. The legality (of the entire operation) under Wisconsin statutes was open to question, and a number of specific actions were probably illegal.

When additional signatures were needed on a petition distributed to property owners, a plot of land was divided into 25' lots sold for \$1.00 each. When funds ran low a plot of land owned by a number of Washburn residents was sold to the town for \$3,000, and the money was turned over to the county seat committee.

A county-wide election was scheduled to settle the matter, but the issue came to a head at a popularity contest held as part of a fair in Iron River. There were two leading female contestants. One happened to favor Washburn as the county seat while the other favored Bayfield. The contest became a symbol, and the Washburn supporters were determined that their side would win. To insure success great numbers of Washburnites descended upon Iron River and spent considerable sums of money. The Washburn supporter won the contest, and in the county election the Iron River showed their appreciation of Washburn's money by voting in favor of moving the county seat. Washburn won the election by 500 votes.

Immediately after the vote was made official by a gubernatorial proclamation a caravan was dispatched from Washburn to Bayfield to move the courthouse. The building was occupied by Washburn residents until all the records and furnishings were removed, and the caravan returned to one of the biggest celebrations in Washburn's history. A small wooden structure served as courthouse until the present one was constructed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

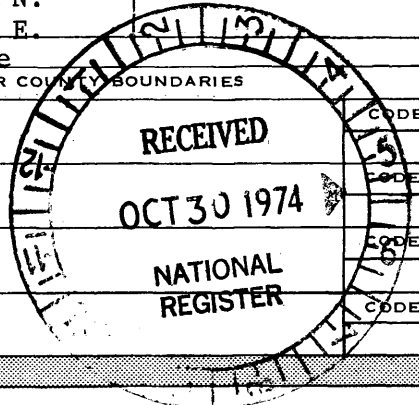
Manuscript describing removal of county seat from Bayfield by Charles M. Sheridan, Washburn, Wi. Manuscript in possession of author.

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	0 ' "	0 ' "				
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

UTM Zone 15:
5,171,220 N.
661,200 E.

UTM OK CD SEE INSTRUCTIONS



APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Charlene Stant Engel, Preservation Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin** DATE: **2 August, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Madison** STATE: **Wisconsin 53706** 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: Oct. 23, 1974

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

W.A. Weir
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 1/17/75

ATTEST:
Charles A. Smith
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 1.15.75