

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PHO 688703

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 1 1978

DATE ENTERED DEC 18 1978

**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

Antigo Public Library and Deleglise Cabin

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

404 Superior Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Antigo

VICINITY OF

8th

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Wisconsin 54409

CODE

55

COUNTY

Langlade

CODE

067

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER: Library

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Antigo

STREET & NUMBER

617 Clermont Street

CITY, TOWN

Antigo

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 54409

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Langlade County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

800 Clermont Street

CITY, TOWN

Antigo

STATE

Wisconsin 54409

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1967

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 type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE (Library)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD (Library)	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1914</u> (Cabin)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR (Cabin)	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Library. Built in 1904-1905, the Antigo Public Library is a two-story building constructed of Antigo red brick. Such ornamental features as sills, water table and keystones are of Bedford limestone. The foundation is of variegated, coursed rough-cut fieldstone with the joints accented by the use of white mortar.

The building's basic style is Late Georgian Revival, although it departs from that style in various details. It is characterized by a symmetrically composed facade whose most striking feature is a monumental full-height pedimented portico supported by a pair of fluted Ionic columns at the front and brick pilasters at the wall; modillioned cornices; flush, flat-arched first story window heads with radiating voussoirs of brick and prominent tooled keystones; pedimented second story windows which break the cornice line; corner pilasters; and a water table. Horizontal cornices of all pediments are denticulated, but raking cornices are not enriched. Windows are double hung sash--8/8 on the first story and 6/6 on the second. The main entry is a pair of multipaned doors with matching sidelights and an elliptical fanlight transom. At either side of the portico is a small, wood frame bay window on the first story level and a small, vertically oriented oval window under the cornice line directly above. Although the bay windows occupy openings that exactly match those of the other first story windows, giving the impression that they may not be original, they are included in the building plans, which are in the library's possession.

The library has a gambrel roof with paired gable-end chimneys which are linked by upward extensions of the end walls through the verges. There is a pair of small, symmetrically placed, pedimented dormers on the lower slope of the roof. Cornices are returned at the gable ends and supported by pilasters. Gable-end window surrounds match those of the first floor of the main facade. At the south end of the building is a polygonal single story Ionic portico with an ornamental iron rail around the deck above. The metal rail was installed in place of the original wood balustrade when it became too difficult to obtain replacements for original hand-turned wood balusters which had deteriorated. Overlooking the south portico deck is a round-arched window with stone insets, suggesting a Palladian window.

The interior has undergone no structural alterations that have compromised the building's basic integrity. Growth of the collections and increased use have required construction of additional stacks, and in the 1960's a new children's room was built in the lower (basement) level "to provide for expansion of that department, and to release the south room on the main floor for expansion of the adult department."<sup>1</sup> Both the children's room and the main floor have been carpeted, and windows provided with draperies. In 1940-1941 the "attic room" on the upper floor, which had previously served a succession of groups and organizations over the years, was finished to provide a museum for the Langlade County Historical Society. Part of the same project was to develop a storage and workroom for county service in the basement.

Robert J. Poss, a local professional engineer, states, "As to whether the architectural integrity of the Antigo Public Library has been preserved, I must answer 'yes'."<sup>2</sup>

Deleglise Cabin. Situated on the library ground just northwest of the library building, this is the first house built in Antigo, a log structure erected in 1878 by the founder of the community, Francis A. Deleglise. It is a 1½ story gable-roofed log building that measures 22' 8" across the front and 16' 2" from front to rear. The walls are

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



Antigo Public Library and Deleglise Cabin

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

mixed hardwood logs--primarily elm--the floor of hemlock, and ceiling joists and rafters of balsam and spruce. The chinking is of lime and cement mortar.<sup>3</sup> Gable ends of the roof are clapboarded above the logs and have a single 6/6 double hung sash window within the roof angle. At the center of the front is a vertical board door, on either side of which is a 6/6 double hung sash window. A similar board door opens into the south wall. All window and door openings have plain board trim. Some of the wall logs show deterioration.

Sophie Deleglise Leslie, a daughter of the builder, recalls, "About in May 1878, my father, Charles Gowan, John Doersch, George Eckhart and Lawrence Weix built the present log cabin. This...was roofed with scoops and a pole floor laid. The doors, windows and hardware were brought from Wausau."<sup>4</sup> The following year a wing was added to the north end to serve as Deleglise's real estate office.<sup>5</sup> During the summer or fall of 1879 "the scoop roof was removed, a few courses of logs put on, and a gabled roof with hand made cedar shingles. The stairway was put in at that time."<sup>6</sup> In 1887 the Deleglise family moved from the log house to a new home in the Sixth ward.<sup>7</sup> The cabin then stood vacant--except when occasionally occupied by squatters--until 1914, when it was moved to the library ground two blocks south on the opposite side of the same street, with the result that it now faces east instead of west. At the time of the move, the wing was removed and the log house reconditioned and refurnished. The move was necessary to prevent destruction of the historic cabin because the land it occupied was needed for commercial use and a new brick building.<sup>8</sup>

In 1930 the cabin was raised and placed on a concrete foundation to prevent further rotting of the bottom logs, some of which had to be replaced. Around the same time the roof, windows and doors had to be restored and the logs rechinked. The Deleglise cabin retains its basic integrity nonetheless. It is furnished with local period pieces and a few original items and is open to the public. A bronze plaque next to the front door identifies the Deleglise cabin as Antigo's first house.

1. Oviatt, p. 15
2. Poss to Prosser, July 28, 1978
3. Ibid.
4. Prosser, "The Story of the Deleglise Cabin"
5. Antigo Daily Journal, June 4, 1913
6. Prosser, op. cit.
7. The Daily Journal, June 4, 1913, gives the date as 1887; Mrs. Leslie, in her recollections (Prosser, op. cit.), says they moved in 1886.
8. Daily Journal, June 4, 1913

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) <b>Associa- tion with locally important person (Cabin)</b>
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1878; 1904-05; 1914 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Allan D. Conover, Architect<sup>1</sup>  
Dallman and Peterson, Construction

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
 The Antigo Public Library and the Deleglise Cabin are included in one nomination because both are public properties located on the same parcel of land and both highly significant as landmark buildings in which the community takes much pride.

Library. (Architecture) Both in partnerships with Lew Forster Porter of Madison and Horace P. Padley of Ashland and as an individual practitioner, Allen D. Conover was involved in designing some buildings in northern Wisconsin. Although architectural historians may not rank the Antigo Public Library among Conover's more notable works, it possesses some merit as a Conover building and to the people of the area--especially those of Antigo--it is a "charming Colonial structure...of which local citizens are very proud. It brings forth favorable comments from visitors and tourists alike."<sup>2</sup> Allan Conover was the library board's choice to draw plans for the building, apparently winning the board's vote because of the "long list of distinguished public buildings designed by Conover throughout the state."<sup>3</sup>

Library. (History) Antigo, which did not begin as a settlement until 1878, grew rapidly, and by 1879 had a rental library operated by Louis Mendlik in his book and stationery store on Superior Street "directly across the street from the site of the present library building."<sup>4</sup> In the middle 1890's there were serious attempts to establish free library service, with members of the Women's Christian Temperance Union making the most concerted effort. "The first public library and reading room was opened by the Friendship Circle of the W.C.T. on April 17, 1897 in the F. A. Millard building..," and in 1900 "the ladies offered to donate their 750 volume book stock to the city if the council would establish a library according to state statutes."<sup>5</sup> The city did so later in that year and the library board, appointed by Mayor I. D. Steffen, held its first organizational meeting on October 6. After having been housed in various private buildings, the library's books and operations were moved into city hall. At the insistence of F. J. Finucane, president of the library board, the city hired a full-time librarian and an assistant. Need for a library building was not long in developing, and in 1903 the city received notice of approval of its request for a Carnegie grant of "\$12,500 to erect a Free Public Library building for Antigo."<sup>6</sup> (This was later increased to \$15,000 for building purposes.) During the next several months the board selected a roomy site in Block 54 which was approved by the city, invited Allan Conover to submit plans, and after various delays and sufficient redrawing of the plans to hold the cost within the appropriation, awarded the building contract to Dallman and Peterson, who began construction in spring, 1904.<sup>7</sup>

To the people of Antigo the library is important not only because of its pleasing and distinctive design but also because its history is closely allied with the early growth and development of the community. When the library was opened to the public on November 7, 1905, the Antigo Daily Journal reported that "fully fifteen hundred people took advantage

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Antigo Daily Journal, Nov. 8, 1905; July 19, 1911; June 3, 4, 5, 13, 1913
- Antigo Weekly News Item, April 26, 1907
- Oviatt, Lorraine, The Antigo Public Library: A History, 1896-1978. (Typescript) (Antigo, 1978)
- Poss, Robert J., P. E., Antigo, Letter, July 28, 1978, to Charlotte B. Prosser
- Prosser, Charlotte Buckman, The Story of the Deleglise Cabin. (Typescript) (Antigo, 1970)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.89

QUADRANGLE NAME Antigo, Wis., 1973 QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>16</u>	<u>330740</u>	<u>5000340</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Block 54,  
Lots 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13, /Original Plat, City of Antigo, Wisconsin

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE  
Donald N. Anderson, Historian & Registrar, Historic Preservation Division

ORGANIZATION  
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE  
31 August 1978

STREET & NUMBER  
816 State Street

TELEPHONE  
608/262-0746

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 Munnery*

TITLE  
Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE 10/29/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 12.12.78

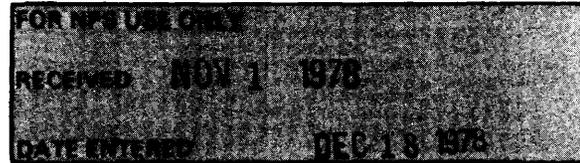
ATTEST: *[Signature]*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12.12.78

ATTEST: *[Signature]*  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



Antigo Public Library and Deleglise Cabin

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

of the opportunity to look it over. It is an institution of which this city has reason to feel proud." Its collections numbered over 5,000 volumes in addition to a large number of public documents for which there would now be shelf room. "Antigo Public Library was a pioneer in establishing county library service through a contractual agreement with the Langlade County Board of Supervisors." This began in 1908 when the county board approved \$500.00 to the library board for full use of the library by residents outside Antigo for the first year.<sup>8</sup> Throughout the ensuing years up to the present time the Antigo Public Library has continued to grow and keep in pace with the times, expanding its services and introducing innovative programs--remaining a progressive, modern institution.<sup>9</sup>

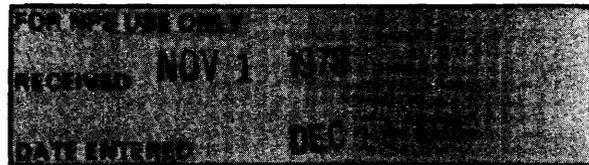
Deleglise Cabin. (History) This structure is of great local significance both as the first house built in Antigo and as the home of the founder of the city, Francis A. Deleglise. Deleglise was a native Swiss and a Roman Catholic, and it was in his cabin that Father Philip St. Louis offered the first Mass in Antigo on May 2, 1880. Confessions were heard there; a marriage was performed January 20, 1882; and two infants were baptized in this cabin.<sup>10</sup> When Deleglise moved his real estate office out of the wing he had built onto the cabin, he offered its use to Editors George Ratcliffe and L. Waite and there they began publication of the county's first newspaper, The New County Republican, in 1880.<sup>11</sup> Deleglise himself became more prominent as Antigo grew, serving in various civic capacities, contributing to the community's growth, and finally winning election to the State Legislature in 1892. He died in 1894.

"When Deleglise came to the wilderness where Antigo now stands, he had purchased a large amount of land in this district and his knowledge of farming conditions showed him that Antigo was right in the heart of what would eventually make a rich farming region. Consequently he platted the village of Antigo."<sup>12</sup> In early 1878 he cleared a patch of ground and began erection of what he intended to be a barn, but "when his family moved here he fitted up the building...for his family for temporary quarters. Subsequently the rapid growth of the village kept him so busy attending to his real estate that he had no time to build the proposed permanent residence until a few years later when he found his projected farm to be right in the business district of a thriving little city."<sup>13</sup> Thus the cabin became Antigo's first house, and although Deleglise built a new house in 1887, the old cabin is the surviving building most importantly associated with h

In 1913 the abandoned Deleglise cabin was in danger of destruction to make way for a new brick building. When this became known, it touched off a wave of sentiment to save the old landmark. The Daily Journal took up the cause for preservation in an editorial on June 3, 1913, stating that the Deleglise cabin was either to be moved or torn down and that it was a historical building and ought to be saved as a matter of civic pride and responsibility. It cited the saving of the Republican Schoolhouse in Ripon as an example of preserving historical buildings and urged the city council "to act at tonight's meeting." The council did act that night and instructed the Board of Public Works to procure the building and move it to a suitable site. The following day the board met and decided on the library ground as a site. That evening, June 4, 1913, the Daily

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



Antigo Public Library and Deleglise Cabin

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Journal ran a front page article, "Old Landmark to be Saved," and printed a history of the city's beginnings, starting with the story of Deleglise's arrival.

On June 13, 1913, the Daily Journal ran a subsequent editorial which both indicates the local significance of the Deleglise cabin and sets forth an espousal of historic preservation--at a time when Antigo was only 35 years old--that means as much today as it did then. Titled "We Started Something," it reads:

Less than a week ago the Journal in an editorial advocated the saving of the old Deleglise house, the first one in Antigo, but when we did so we never dreamed that it would attract such wide attention. The Milwaukee Free Press used the picture and featured it in a Sunday issue, while numerous other papers took up the matter and used it as an example to influence similar action with reference to old buildings or other historic things in the city or community.

The Berlin Journal in commenting upon it said: "Antigo is fairly young and her oldest house only dates back to 1878, when F. A. Deleglise built it--a log hut, and settled in it, going there from Appleton. Now public spirited citizens are to move this log hut to a prominent place on the library grounds and make it historical."

The paper then went on to tell of some historic house it had suggested saving, but nothing came of it, and concludes with the following: "The merit of a thing that takes years is true merit. We refer to this at the suggestion of seeing what Antigo is going to do and we do so in a spirit of regret, not malice."

It is true as the Berlin paper says things of true worth quite frequently take years to come into their real value. The old Deleglise house has stood on its present location for so many years that people passed by without giving any thought to what it might mean to future generations. But this place has now been secured by Antigo and its example has set other towns to thinking and may result in similar work being done, where the opportunity yet exists.

1. Oviatt, p. 10
2. Prosser, Charlotte B., original nomination form
3. Oviatt, p. 10
4. Ibid., p. 1
5. Ibid., p. 5
6. Ibid., p. 8

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



Antigo Public Library and Deleglise Cabin

See

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER below PAGE 3

---

8. 7. Daily Journal, Nov. 8, 1905
8. Oviatt, p. 19
9. Ibid., pp. 16-24
10. Prosser, "The Story of the Deleglise Cabin"
11. Daily Journal, June 4, 1913
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.

11. Form prepared by:

Charlotte B. Prosser, Honorary Life Member  
Antigo Public Library Board  
1415 Clermont Street  
Antigo

August 5, 1978  
715/623-3400  
Wisconsin 54409