

City, Village or Town: West Bend	County: Washington	Surveyor: D. Filipowicz; D. Keuhl, Dep. Co. Clerk,	Date: 10/81	Street	
Street Address: 320 S. 5th Avenue		Legal Description: L. Garfield COURTHOUSE ANNEX #1	Acreage: approx. 2		
Current Name & Use: Washington County Courthouse Annex (Dept. of Social Services) & Wash. Co. Hist. Soc. Mus.		Current Owner: County of Washington; Attn: George F. Nehrbass, County Clerk			
Film Roll No.	Affix Contact Prints	Current Owner's Address: 320 S. Fifth Avenue, West Bend, WI			Number
Negative No.		Special Features Not Visible In Photographs: see Description of Architectural Statement, Item 3.			
Facade Orient.		Interior visited? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			

Original Name & Use:	Source	Previous Owners	Dates	Uses	Source	Town
2 Washington County Courthouse & Jail						
Dates of Construction:	Source					
1889 (jail 1886)	A (B)					
Architect and/or Builder:	Source					Range
E. V. Koch & Co., Milwaukee	A					

<b>3 Architectural Significance</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Represents work of a master <input type="radio"/> Possesses high artistic values <input checked="" type="radio"/> Represents a type, period, or method of construction <input checked="" type="radio"/> Is a visual landmark in the area <input type="radio"/> Other: _____ <input type="radio"/> None.	<b>4 Historical Significance</b> <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with lives of significant persons <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with significant historical events <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with development of a locality <input checked="" type="radio"/> Other: _____ <input type="radio"/> None.	Section
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<b>Statement of Architectural Significance:</b> Description: The landmark tower on the Washington County Courthouse (now Dept. of Social Services) rises several stories above the 92 x 64-foot three-story building. A rusticated limestone raised basement, dressed limestone courses (projecting between the first and second stories) and shallow projecting pavilions on the rear (west) and north and south ends relieve the expanses of blond brick wall. Narrow round-headed windows are symmetrically distributed on three sides of the building, occurring singly or in pairs framing the shallow pavilions; (over)	<b>Statement of Historical Significance:</b> The Washington County Courthouse, built in 1889-90, <sup>A, E</sup> has been a center of county government since its construction. Located on land first deeded to the county for courthouse purposes in 1853 by William Wightman, Byron Kilbourn, James Kneeland, and Erastus Wolcott, <sup>C</sup> the building replaced an 1854 courthouse which was transplanted to Main Street and transformed into a hardware store. <sup>D</sup> When finished, the new courthouse, and the relandscaped park, was described by the County Board as an "ornament to the County and the city of West Bend." <sup>E</sup> The nearby jail and sheriff's residence, constructed in 1886, was thought substantial enough to last "200 years." <sup>C, P. 4.</sup>  The courthouse served the county in its original function until 1962 when it was (over)	Map Name
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<b>Sources of Information (Reference to Above)</b> 1 Blueprint (courthouse). 3 County Building Committee Records (jail). 2 New Washington County Courthouse and Jail Dedication Booklet, June 17, 1962, p. 3. 1 Williams, Dorothy, Spirit of West Bend, Madison, Strauss Print, 1980, p. 26. E West Bend Democrat, Vol. 38, No. 48, Nov. 26, 1890, p. 2.	<b>6 District Classification</b> District Name: _____ <input type="radio"/> Pivotal <input type="radio"/> Contributing <input type="radio"/> Non-Contributing Initials: _____ Date: _____	Map Note
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<b>7 Representation in Previous Surveys:</b> <input type="radio"/> HABS <input type="radio"/> NRHP <input type="radio"/> WRL <input type="radio"/> Local Landmark <input checked="" type="radio"/> Other: WIHP	<b>8 Eligibility for the National Register</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Eligible <input type="radio"/> Not Eligible <input type="radio"/> Unknown state Initials: DHF Date: 10/81
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## Architectural Statement (cont.):

openings in the pavilions themselves occur in threes or fives. Centered over the wide-arched recessed entrance on the front facade, the pinnacled square tower is the building's principal design feature; heavy wood brackets, framed by engaged pinnacles, support wood balconies beneath bracketed pinnacles on each face of the tower, crowned by a taller center pinnacle. Red tin shingles still cover the hipped roof and tower. A large terra cotta bas relief (seated Justice) is installed on the second story of the north end wall, behind which was the original judge's bench. Tall brick chimneys with corbelled brick buttresses rise from the east and west slopes of the roof to each side of the tower. With successive alterations made on the interior, the divided stairway inside the front entrance is the most significant interior element. Like the double door at the entrance, the panelled wainscoting and handrails are of oak, as are the wooden spool balustrade and newels between the second and third stories. Between the first and second stories, newels and ornamental balusters are constructed of steel. Over the second-to-third-story landing, stained glass in three upper windows and lunettes is still in place. Aside from all of the alterations (suspended accoustical grid or tile ceilings, modern panelling, movable partitions) made to the courtroom and office spaces in the building, the original panelled north wall, once behind the judge's bench, is still exposed in the former courtroom on the second floor.

Situated to the south of the courthouse atop the same high knoll, the former Washington County Jail is a two-story-plus attic rectangular building (30 x 34 feet) constructed of matching blond brick with red tin shingle hipped roof. The front facade is dominated by an ornamented frontispiece composed of corbelled brick chimney stacks joined by a stepped gable. A lattice-filled bulls-eye tops the triple-light segmental arch in the attic. The double-door entrance is covered by a small decorative wood porch with wide horseshoe arches and lattice-filled spandrels; the original turned wood balusters and lattice porch skirt frame the stairs. Projecting belt courses mark the floor and window levels; corbelled brick machicolation trims the upper walls. Pairs of rectangular windows (now simple double-hung sash) light the front facade; iron lattices (corresponding to the

## Historical Statement (cont.):

supplanted by a new structure. Since that time, the courthouse--now known as Courthouse Annex I--has been the administrative center of the county's Department of Social Services. The jail, also replaced in 1962, now serves as the home of the Washington County Historical Society. Nevertheless, the buildings still retain considerable symbolic significance to the county. Important civic events, including the annual Memorial Day observance, are still held in the 1889 courthouse.

## Architectural Statement (cont.):

former jail cells) fill the single openings on the side walls. Chimney-trimmed stepped pediments cover dormer faces on the north and south (side) slopes of the roof. The building sits on a rusticated limestone foundation. Most of the jail building interior is still intact: the sheriff's residence, with its wood wainscoting and carved stair newel in the front (east) portion of the building; and all metal-lattice cells, four on the first story and four on the second, in the rear.

Significance: Now adaptively re-used as the Washington County Department of Social Services and the Washington County Historical Society Museum, the former Washington County Courthouse and Jail are splendid representatives of a period and type of construction, and are among the best buildings of their kind in the state. With many of the characteristics of Richardsonian Romanesque buildings, the courthouse has a distinctive seventeenth-century northern European flavor by virtue of its dominant tower with its pinnacles and bracketed balconies. Subtle elements of the Queen Anne style evident in its brackets and chimneys are more fully stated in the earlier jail; the survival of the latter's wood porch with its horseshoe arches and lattice work illustrate, in combination with its chimney-trimmed stepped gables, the classic decorative features of the style. Moreover, the jail represents a vanishing type of construction--the combination sheriff's residence and jail--which, until fifty years ago, was the

(continued)

WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
Intensive Survey - Continuation Sheet

Architectural Statement (cont.):

typical county penal facility in Wisconsin. The visual and symbolic impact of the buildings is intensified by their location on a high grassy knoll in a well-kept residential area of West Bend overlooking the business district; the courthouse tower is visible from several miles outside of the city.

Designs for both buildings were produced by Edward V. Koch of Edward V. Koch & Company of Milwaukee. Koch, not to be confused with better-known H. C. Koch of Milwaukee who designed a great number of prominent Milwaukee and Wisconsin buildings, was listed as a practicing architect in Milwaukee city directories from 1886-1891.

