

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 29 1980

DATE ENTERED

MAY 7 1980

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Burnett County Abstract Company

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 214 N. Oak Street

CITY, TOWN

Grantsburg

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Seventh

STATE

Wisconsin 54840

— VICINITY OF

CODE

55

COUNTY

Burnett

CODE

013

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Bruce Erickson

STREET & NUMBER

401 N. Park Street

CITY, TOWN

Grantsburg

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 54840

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Burnett County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Grantsburg

STATE

Wisconsin 54840

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1977

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

This diminutive 18 x 26 foot office block sits on a prominent corner across from the Burnett County Courthouse. Constructed from local brick, the one story building is symmetrical in plan with the exception that the north side elevation has three windows and the south side facade has one. A parapet wall rises above the sloped roof. A shed roofed storage room measuring 12 x 16 feet is attached to the rear. Embossed metal covers the shed walls. This frame addition appears to have been used for storage of coal and firewood.

A denticulated cornice and a string course above the openings add interest to the simple form. Segmentally arched openings encase the original window glass on the north and south facades. On the front facade a compound arch accentuates the wide doorway. The door with nine lights is flanked by sidelights and a tri-partite fanlight. On either side of the entry, wooden bulletin boards are set in segmentally arched openings. These bulletin boards were used for posting legal notices required by early law. The company's name is emblazoned in metal across the front facade. A canvas awning is attached above the entry.

The interior of the building, like the exterior, has never been remodeled. The original woodwork, flooring and plaster wall finishes are intact. The vault door, made by Mitchell Safe Company, and a hot water heating stove fired by coal or wood also remain functional.

The building is presently undergoing refurbishing for use as office space. The owner, an architect, is cleaning, caulking and regrouting the brickwork as well as painting the metal and wood surfaces.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1908¹

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Burnett County Abstract Company building, a local landmark, has remained intact for more than 70 years. It is an excellent example of a vernacular commercial building made of local materials that has retained its character both inside and out.

When Burnett County was created in 1865 from adjacent Polk County, Grantsburg, as the only sizeable settlement, became the county seat. Growth came slowly as the community developed as a trade center for timber and agricultural interests. The village was incorporated in 1887 with a population of 334.

In 1906 six of the leading Grantsburg citizens, William Anderson, A. P. Nelson, S. Thoreson, Andrew Peterson, S. F. Grover and A. J. Myrland, incorporated as the Burnett County Abstract Company. Previously land titles and sales and claims for the county had been handled at the county courthouse or by an abstract company in St. Croix Falls, Polk County. Work was then begun on a set of abstract title records, requiring about a year to complete.

One year later, in 1908, the company constructed a permanent building conveniently located across from the courthouse where most of the legal work was done. Since the building did not, and still does not, have an indoor water and sewer hookup, employees out of necessity would find their way to courthouse facilities.

In 1916 Byron Selves bought the firm and operated it until 1944. A thriving lumber industry provided much of his business. Donald Elg, a company associate since 1919, purchased the business from Selves and remained active until his death in 1965. His son, Richard Elg, continues with the firm.

Fires and remodelings have taken their toll of most of Grantsburg's early commercial buildings. There were few brick business blocks and fewer still remain. The Burnett County Abstract Company building, tiny yet graceful, continues to be an important Grantsburg structure.

¹Augustus B. Eaton, ed., History of Saint Croix Valley (Chicago, 1909), vol.II,p.1189.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.1

QUADRANGLE NAME Grantsburg, Wis.-Minn.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,5 5,2,4,6,0,0 5,0,6,9,2,0,0

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

North 96 feet of lot 7, Block 2, Original Plat, Village of Grantsburg

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marilyn McMillan, Preservation Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Northwest Regional Planning Commission

DATE

October 1979

STREET & NUMBER

302 Walnut Street

TELEPHONE

(715) 635-2197

CITY OR TOWN

Spooner

STATE

Wisconsin 54801

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL x

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 Plummer

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

2/25/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. Ray Luce

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5/7/80

ATTEST:

Kristin G. Connell

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

4/29/80

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Burnett County Abstract Company, Grantsburg, Wisconsin

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Item #9, Major Bibliographical References:

Abstract of Title, in possession of current property owner.

Burnett County Sentinel, April 23 and June 18, 1908.

Crownhart, Maurice, ed. Strolling Through a Century, Grantsburg, Wisconsin,
private printing 1965.

Eaton, Augustus B, ed. History of Saint Croix Valley, Chicago, 1909, Vol. II.

Folsom, W. H. C. Fifty Years in the Northwest. no pub. place, 1888.

Oral Interviews: Walter Jensen, Bruce Erickson, George Weidin, Richard Elg, August 1979.