

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

MAR 02 1993

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only archival paper (20 pound, acid free paper with a 2% alkaline reserve).

1. Name of Property

historic name Marshall Memorial Hall

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 30 Wisconsin Dells Parkway South N/A not for publication

city, town Lake Delton N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Sauk code 111 zip code 53940

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
None

No. of contributing resources
previously listed in the
National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

[Handwritten Signature]

2/22/03
Date

Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

~~entered in the~~
~~National Register~~

entered in the National Register.
___ See continuation sheet

[Handwritten Signature]

4/1/93

___ determined eligible for the National Register. ___ See continuation sheet

___ determined not eligible for the National Register.

___ removed from the National Register.

___ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/city hall

GOVERNMENT/city hall

7. Description	
Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
Colonial Revival	foundation <u>Concrete</u>
	walls <u>Brick</u>
	<u>Wood</u>
	roof <u>Asphalt</u>
	other <u>Wood</u>

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Marshall Memorial Hall is a small, highly intact, one-story, "T" plan, red brick Georgian Revival style building built in 1928 as a combination town hall and library that was intended to serve the community living in the Town of Delton. The Hall was built with a bequest for that purpose the Town received from Roujet De Lisle Marshall (1847-1922), an eminent Wisconsin jurist and a longtime associate justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court who spent his boyhood in the village. The building was designed in 1928 by Edward Tough (1878-1970), a Scottish-born architect who practiced mostly in Madison, Wisconsin, and is located on what is now known as Wisconsin Dells Parkway South, the major thoroughfare in Lake Delton. Marshall Memorial Hall has been in continuous use since it was built and is a good example of how historic building designs were revived and reused to meet twentieth century needs. The building has been well maintained throughout its history and both its exterior and interior are still in largely original condition today.

The village of Lake Delton¹ is located in the Town of Delton in Sauk County, approximately one mile south of the Columbia County village of Wisconsin Dells.² These villages are located on opposite banks of an extraordinarily picturesque stretch of the Wisconsin River (which forms the boundary between the two counties) and they now form the cores around which one of Wisconsin's best known resort areas has developed. The transformation of the village of Delton into a tourist-oriented community began in the 1920s and was accelerated in 1929, when the developers of USH 12 decided to use the main thoroughfare of the village (today's Wisconsin Dells Parkway, North and South) as a portion of the new route. This development (which began in the same year that Marshall Memorial Hall was being constructed) ultimately resulted in the complete transformation of the built environment in the vicinity of Marshall Memorial Hall. The Hall is located near the four-way intersection formed by the intersection of USH 12 (Wisconsin Dells Parkway North and South) and STH 23. The area immediately surrounding this intersection had historically been the commercial heart of the village of Delton even before the roads were widened and hard-surfaced for automobile use and the village's few churches, stores, and other non-residential buildings were mostly located within the immediate vicinity of this intersection, and consequently, of the Hall. With the passage of time, however, the land and the buildings bordering on these major thoroughfares have become extremely valuable. This has resulted in either the demolition or the radical alteration of most of the older buildings in the vicinity of the Hall, buildings which have been replaced by modern motels, new retail stores and fast food operations. As a result, the historic commercial core of the village of Delton has ceased to exist, leaving Marshall Memorial Hall as virtually the only intact non-residential reminder of Delton's historic past.

¹ The year-round population of Lake Delton in 1980 was 1158.

² The year-round population of Wisconsin Dells in 1980 was 2521.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Marshall Memorial Hall, Lake Delton, Sauk County, Wisconsin
Section number 7 Page 1

Wisconsin Dells Parkway (USH 12) runs in a generally north-south direction while the route of STH 23 runs east-west through the village. Marshall Memorial Hall is located in the southeast corner of the intersection formed by these two thoroughfares and it is sited approximately 120 feet east of the intersection. The topography in this immediate vicinity is flat and the neighboring buildings consist largely of modern non-residential buildings of widely differing sizes and types. The Hall is placed towards the street end (the north end) of a large rectilinear 300-foot-wide by 120-foot-deep lot on the south side of Wisconsin Dells Parkway South. Most of this lot is given over to lawn and clipped evergreen bushes and small trees are used as ornamental plantings around the Hall. To the right (west) of the Hall is the now greatly modernized and expanded village fire station building. Behind the Hall are two later buildings of modern design that have been constructed to serve the administrative needs of the Village of Lake Delton (Marshall Memorial Hall is now owned by the Town of Delton and houses the Town's administrative offices).

Marshall Memorial Hall is a freestanding "T"-plan one-story building that consists of a main block (which forms the crossbar of the "T") that houses administrative offices, and a narrower but much deeper rear ell that houses an auditorium. The exterior walls rest on foundation walls that enclose a raised basement story. Above grade, the exterior walls are clad in red brick laid in American bond. Below grade, the foundation walls (which are built out of hollow clay tiles) are sheathed in concrete that is expressed above grade as a shallow plinth course. The raised basement story is demarcated from the first story by a concrete beltcourse that encircles the building.

The principal facade of the Hall (and of the main block) faces north onto Wisconsin Dells Parkway South and is set back approximately 30 feet from the concrete sidewalk that parallels the Parkway. This facade is approximately 45-feet in width, symmetrical in design, five-bays-wide, and the raised principal entrance to the Hall is placed in the center bay. This entrance is sheltered by an elegantly designed raised one-story semi-circular plan flat-roofed portico whose curved foundation walls are faced in brick. The semi-circular landing of the portico is made of concrete and it is reached by ascending a flight of ten concrete steps that are flanked by cast iron balustrades.³ The landing, which acts as the floor of the portico, is rimmed with continuations of these cast iron balustrades. Four tall, thin, Tuscan Order wood columns support the curved, classically designed wooden entablature that edges the portico roof. This roof is edged by a curved cast iron balustrade of its own that echoes the design of the slightly taller main balustrade below.

The main entrance consists of a pair of solid wood doors (which are modern substitutes for the original panelled and glass doors) and are flanked by simple sidelights, each of which has a simple wood panel placed below it. These three

³ The two deteriorated bottom steps of this flight were replaced in the summer of 1991 with new concrete steps that are identical to the ones they replaced.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Marshall Memorial Hall, Lake Delton, Sauk County, Wisconsin
Section number 7 Page 2

elements (doors and two sidelights) are surmounted by a broad baskethandle arch-shaped fanlight divided into three sections; a large fan-shaped center section placed over the doors and two smaller flanking sections, one of which is placed over each sidelight. The center section is filled with radiating leaded tracery and the two smaller sections contain tracery with complimentary designs. The remaining wall surface of the center bay is clad in white-painted wood panelling. This panelling completely surrounds the paired main entrance doors and the entraining side and fanlights.

The other four bays on this facade are identical and are distributed so as to position two bays on either side of the wider center bay. The basement story of each bay contains a single three-over-six-light flat arched double hung window. The first story of each bay contains a tall semi-circular-arched window opening whose lowest portion rests on the encircling concrete beltcourse. The lowest portion of each opening is filled with an inset wood panel above which is placed an eight-over-twelve-light flat-arched double hung window. Each window is surmounted by a semi-circular-arched six-light transom window. These arches are outlined with a course of header bricks and further decorated with two small cut stone impost blocks and a keystone. The facade is terminated by simple slightly overhung boxed eaves. These wooden eaves are located at the base of the asphalt shingle-covered hip roof that shelters the main block of the Hall and whose ridgeline runs east-west. This roof is crowned by a centrally positioned octagonal wooden lantern (actually a square plan lantern with canted corners) that is sheltered by a metal-sheathed bell roof that is surmounted by a finial. Each of the four principal faces of the lantern is decorated with a small, narrow, round-arched window containing lead tracery that divides each window into twenty-one lights and the corners of the lantern are decorated with simple corner pilasters.

The east-facing side elevation of the Hall consists of the combined four-bay-wide side elevation of the rear ell (the four left-hand bays) and the two-bay-wide side elevation of the main block (the two right-hand bays). These combined elevations are both clad in red brick and they are divided horizontally by the same encircling concrete beltcourse described previously. The first bay from the left is subordinate to the other five bays in its design. Its basement story contains a paired group of small three-over-six-light flat-arched double hung windows and its first story contains a single flat-arched eight-over-twelve-light double hung window that lights a vestibule located behind the auditorium stage. The second, third, and fourth bays from the left, meanwhile, are identical to each other. The basement story of each contains a single small three-over-six-light flat-arched double hung window. The first story windows (which light the auditorium) are identical to the tall round-arched ones that fill the four flanking bays of the main facade. The fifth and sixth bays from the left (those of the side elevation of the main block) are identical to the three just described, the only difference being that the first story window opening of the fifth bay is brick-filled and blind because a walk-in vault is located behind it. The east-facing slope of the roof of the main block is

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET
Marshall Memorial Hall, Lake Delton, Sauk County, Wisconsin
Section number 7 Page 3

pierced by a tall brick twin flue chimney mass. This chimney is placed between bays five and six and is terminated by a decorative corbelled brick cap. In addition, the asphalt shingle-covered roof of the rear ell is also hipped and has a ridgeline that runs north-south.

The west-facing side elevation of the Hall was originally intended to be a mirror image of the east-facing side, with the two-bay-wide side elevation of the main block (the two left-hand bays) being combined with the four-bay-wide side elevation of the rear ell (the four right-hand bays). This is in fact the way this elevation was built, with three exceptions. The first exception is that the round-arched first story window opening in the second bay from the left contains a complete operating double hung window unit rather than being blind like the corresponding opening on the east side. The second exception is that the chimney mass on the west-facing slope of the roof of the main block carries one rather than two flues and is narrower than the corresponding east side chimney mass. The third exception is that the basement story of the sixth bay from the left contains just one three-over-six-light window rather than the pair found in the equivalent position on the east side.

The only alteration to the original exterior of the Hall affected the west-facing elevation and it occurred within the last twenty years, when a small one-story addition was constructed in the space created by the juncture of the main block and the rear ell. This approximately 10-foot-long by 10-foot-deep addition is windowless and provides additional office storage space. Like the Hall, it too has red brick walls and a raised basement story that is demarcated from the first story by a continuation of the original concrete beltcourse. The south-facing side wall of this addition is flush with the left edge of the original first story window opening located in the third bay from the left. This window opening was converted into a side entrance when the addition was built, a change that resulted in the filling-in of the original round-arched upper portion of the opening and the replacement of the window sash with a solid wood door. This door opens outward onto a concrete floored landing. Under this landing is a continuation of the basement story of the addition. Both the landing and the new addition are then sheltered by an asphalt shingle-covered shed roof. Originally, a flight of eight concrete steps led up to this landing, but these steps were removed when a large wooden handicap access ramp was constructed adjacent to and parallel with the west elevation in 1991. Lack of funds made it impossible to design this ramp in such a way as to compliment the original design of the Hall. Fortunately, this ramp attaches to the modern addition by two 2 x 12's, so the affect on the Hall is minimal and reversible.

The south-facing elevation of the Hall is comprised of the rear elevation of the ell that contains the Hall's auditorium. This elevation is three-bays-wide and asymmetrical in design and here once again the concrete beltcourse demarcates the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Marshall Memorial Hall, Lake Delton, Sauk County, Wisconsin
Section number 7 Page 4

basement story from the main story. The only opening in the left-hand bay is a three-over-six light flat-arched double hung window located in the basement story. A paired group of these windows is located in the basement story of the right-hand bay. The first story of this bay contains a rear door opening that is reached by ascending a metal staircase. The lower half of the middle bay is covered by a small, wood frame, one-story, rectilinear plan, flat-roofed ell that acts as a covered vestibule for a staircase that descends to the basement level. This ell is original to the Hall and sided in clapboard. Its corners are covered with simple corner pilasters. Engaged pilasters of identical design cover the juncture where the walls of the ell meet the brick walls of the Hall. A single one-over-one-light flat-arched double hung window is centered on the south-facing elevation of the ell. A single solid entrance door is placed towards the right-hand side of the ell's west elevation. The interior walls and the ceiling of this ell are plastered and the dog-legged flight of stairs has a solid, plastered balustrade.

The original interior of the Hall is also still largely intact and in good condition. The first story of the main block is bisected by a rectilinear plan hall or lobby and an equal-width entrance vestibule. Entrance to the lobby is gained by passing through the main entrance doors into the quarry tile-floored vestibule, which is the only part of the first story of the Hall that was not originally floored with hardwood.* The vestibule is separated from the larger lobby beyond by a wood and glass screen that is composed of a centered pair of panel-and-fifteen-light French doors. These doors are flanked by ten-light sidelights. The oak woodwork from which this screen is fashioned is - like all the rest of the first story woodwork - darkly stained and varnished. Upon passing through this second set of doors one enters the lobby, which, like the entrance vestibule and the main block's other rooms, features stained and varnished oak doors, crown moldings, baseboards, and door casings. The west (right-hand) wall of the lobby is pierced by a single door that opens into a room that occupies the west portion of the main block. A second door opens into what was once a single "L"-plan office that originally occupied most of the east portion of the main block. This door is placed on the left half of the east wall of the lobby while to the right is a large stilted arch opening. This opening leads to the stairhall that descends to the basement story. A pair of three-panel oak doors opening into the auditorium are centered on the south or rear wall of the lobby. This room is encircled by a thin chair rail.

The rectilinear plan room to the west of the lobby was originally designed to house the town library. Later, when the library was moved to its present location, the original shelving was removed and the room became the office of the clerk of the Town of Delton, a role it still fills today. A working fireplace that is

* The original hardwood flooring of the lobby (and all of the first story's other rooms) is still intact but the flooring of the rooms in the main block is now covered with wood-grained linoleum.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET
Marshall Memorial Hall, Lake Delton, Sauk County, Wisconsin
Section number 7 Page 5

embellished with a simple Colonial Revival style stained oak mantel is placed between two deeply recessed window openings on the wall opposite the entrance door to this room and is part of the original furnishings of the room.⁵ The only other alteration of this room occurred recently when a door opening was cut into its south wall to provide access to a new storage room.

The "L"-plan space that occupies most of the area to the east of the lobby originally consisted of the rectilinear plan office of the town clerk and an adjacent walk-in safe. The safe is still intact, but the office space (which, until recently was occupied by the clerk of the Village of Lake Delton) was recently subdivided into two new handicapped access restrooms. These restrooms are reached from a short corridor that opens into the lobby through the original door opening. The remaining portion of the east part of the main block is given over to a stairhall that leads down to the basement story. This stairhall contains a dog-legged type stairway that features turned wooden balusters and newel posts and shaped wooden stair rails.

The first story of the rear ell is occupied by the meeting room known as the auditorium, which is the principal room of the building. This room consists primarily of a single large rectilinear plan space with sufficient space to seat three hundred. At the south end of the auditorium is a proscenium wall pierced by a large centered proscenium arch flanked by two smaller flat-arched six-panel oak doors. A raised apron with short runs of stairs at either end is placed in front of the stage and extends the hardwood floor of the stage several feet out into the auditorium. The doors open into two small rooms that serve the backstage needs of the auditorium. The south wall of the left-hand room also contains a rear exit door that opens onto a metal exterior staircase.

The auditorium was originally lit by six semi-circular-arched windows, three on the east wall and three on the west. Five of these windows are still intact and they (along with the proscenium arch) still retain their original molded plaster surrounds, each of which is surmounted by a plaster keystone. When the new storage room was added off the old library room, however, the right-hand window opening on the west wall was altered by being converted into an exit door opening onto a concrete-floored porch outside. This is the only first story room in the Hall whose hardwood flooring has not been covered over with linoleum and its original baseboards, window sills and aprons, doors and door casings are still intact as well. The only significant change to this room has been the addition of a modern dropped ceiling, fortunately an easily reversible alteration.

⁵ Except for having stained oak sills and aprons, none of the main block's first story interior window openings are otherwise decorated with casing or trim. This unadorned treatment is typical of many of the historic models that influenced this design of the Hall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Marshall Memorial Hall, Lake Delton, Sauk County, Wisconsin

Section number 7 Page 6

The concrete-floored basement story of the Hall is reached by descending the previously described stairs. These stairs open into a basement level lobby area that roughly corresponds in size and position to the lobby above. The west half of the basement story of the main block is largely given over to a men's rest room and to an adjacent ladies' lounge. Most of the original dark varnished woodwork is still intact in both rooms. A pair of wooden doors centered in the south wall of the lobby open into a large room beyond in the basement level of the rear ell that was originally used as a dining room. This room corresponds in dimension and position with the auditorium above and it is still equipped with tables and original wooden chairs for seventy-five. The south wall of this room is pierced by three asymmetrically placed six-panel wooden entrance doors and by an oblong pass-through door (also of panelled wood), all of which open into the kitchen space beyond.

The kitchen space is now used just for storage and it is in rough but highly intact condition. Most of the north wall of this room is covered by painted wooden cabinetry, original to the room, and the kitchen's large original metal gas range is located opposite it on the south wall. Just to the right of the stove is the door leading to the rear stairway, which is sheltered by the frame construction one story rear ell described earlier.

Both the first story and the basement story of the Hall are essentially functional in design and are largely devoid of decoration. Even so, the high level of the integrity of the interior serves to enhance the overall significance of this fine Georgian Revival style building.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B X C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
<u> Architecture </u>	<u> 1928⁶ </u>	<u> N/A </u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	Cultural Affiliation	_____
_____	<u> N/A </u>	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Significant Person	Architect/Builder
<u> N/A </u>	<u> Tough, Edward⁷ </u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Significance

Marshall Memorial Hall is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for its local significance under National Register (NR) criterion C. More specifically, the Hall is being nominated because of its associations with the NR significance area of Architecture, a theme that is also identified in the State of Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP). Research designed to evaluate this significance centered on the Period Revival style subsection of the Architectural Styles study unit of the CRMP. The results of this research is detailed below and confirms that Marshall Memorial Hall is locally significant under criterion C as a highly intact example of the Georgian Revival style as applied to a small late 1920s multipurpose public building.

Marshall Memorial Hall was built at a cost of approximately \$27,000 by the Town of Delton in 1928 to a design furnished by Madison, Wisconsin architect Edward Tough. The Town built the Hall with a bequest that it received in 1922 from the estate of Roujet De Lisle Marshall (1842-1922), a wealthy lawyer and retired justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court whose boyhood home, a farm called "Elmwood," was located several miles southwest of the village of Lake Delton just off USH 12. Marshall left this bequest with the intent of providing the Town of Delton and the village of Lake Delton with a much-needed community center that would house a hall for public meetings, a library, and Town and Village municipal offices. All of these things and more were provided for in Tough's fine design. The new building was constructed

⁶ Baraboo News-Republic. June 19, 1929, pg. 2; June 25, 1929, pgs. 1 & 2. Marshall Memorial Hall has been in continuous use as a town and village hall since it was completed and this usage continues to the present day. The Hall is little changed, is in very good condition, and its period of significance is its date of construction, 1928.

⁷ Ibid.

X See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Marshall Memorial Hall, Lake Delton, Sauk County, Wisconsin

Section number 8 Page 1

at the southern end of the village of Lake Delton on a large flat lot that fronted on the recently completed north-south-running USH 12. In 1928, Lake Delton consisted of a few commercial buildings, two churches, and a scattering of residential buildings, and most of the land in the immediate vicinity of the Hall and all the land to the south was still rural in character and undeveloped. After World War II, however, this stretch of USH 12 was transformed into the southern axis of the heavily developed, nationally known summer resort area that centers around the nearby Columbia County community of Wisconsin Dells. As a result of this transformation almost nothing of the original commercial core of Lake Delton has survived intact except for Marshall Memorial Hall and a church across the street that now houses an antique shop. Continued growth in the village area has also necessitated the construction of new buildings to house the local library and the Village offices, but the Hall continues to house the offices of the Town of Delton and its auditorium is still used as a public meeting place by the local community.

Historic Background

Topography and proximity to water both played major roles in the founding of the town of Delton and the village of Lake Delton. The northeast boundary of the town is formed by the Wisconsin River, a tributary of the Mississippi River and the most important river system contained wholly within the borders of Wisconsin. Not surprisingly, the Wisconsin River has played several major roles in the history of the settlement of Wisconsin. Its earliest role was as one of the state's most important transportation routes, a usage that gradually diminished in importance after the subsequent statewide network of railroads and highways was constructed. Later, the Wisconsin was utilized to float rafts of logs from upstate and midstate logging camps to mills and to markets further down river, and still later the river was harnessed as a source of hydroelectric power.

Besides being bounded by the Wisconsin River, the town of Delton is also bisected in a northeast-southwest direction by Dell Creek, a small tributary of the Wisconsin that empties into it just down river from the present Columbia County village of Wisconsin Dells. Harnessing the Wisconsin River as a source of hydromechanical power was too great a task for the earliest settlers in the area, but Dell Creek was another matter. Consequently, proximity to a major transportation route (the Wisconsin) and to a developable source of water power (Dell Creek) made the site where these two waterways joined a logical place for early settlement.

One of the major rapids on the Wisconsin River in the nineteenth century was at a narrow spot called the "Dells" of the Wisconsin. This spot was located just upriver from the town of Delton.

In the 1840s, river men driving logs on the Wisconsin had to split their lumber rafts in half before running them through the treacherous narrows of the Dells. Once through, the drivers needed a wide, calm spot to park the half-rafts while

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET
Marshall Memorial Hall, Lake Delton, Sauk County, Wisconsin
Section number 8 Page 2

they walked back up to the head of the Dells to make the next run through the rocks. They found it at the mouth of Dell Creek. A village soon grew up to supply the rivermen with food, dry clothes and other supplies. The rivermen were cash poor, but rich in "whiskey shingles." They would trade one thousand shingles for a gallon of whiskey, worth about seventy-five cents. The whiskey seller would then resell the shingles to settlers who needed roofing material.

The water power of Dell Creek made Delton village an important industrial and milling center. A mill dam was built near the site of the modern Lake Delton dam as early as 1850. Ten years later the dam that formed Mirror Lake was constructed. Both of these dams and their successors ran mills that cut lumber and ground wheat, corn, oats and sorghum. By 1862, two small iron foundries, using ore mined in Ironton (located in western Sauk County), were located near the Delton mills - just in time to turn out stoves and other iron ware for the hops boom. When hops busted, and the thin soil of the farmland played out, old Delton was all but deserted. After the dams washed out in the big flood of 1917, historian H.E. Coles listed Delton along with (the nearby riverfront site of) Newport as a (Sauk County) ghost town.^a

During this same period, however, the neighboring Columbia County village of Kilbourn (today's Wisconsin Dells) was becoming nationally known as a summer resort community. Several frame hotels (non-extant) and numerous other establishments were constructed on the north bank of the river during this period to cater to tourists who came from as far away as Alabama and Mississippi to view the natural wonders of the Dells area. This was partially due to the superb, widely circulated photos of the region taken by pioneer Kilbourn photographer H.H. Bennett and also to the fact that travelers to this area had ready access to it as early as the 1860s, thanks to Kilbourn's location on the main track of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad.

The town and village of Delton did not begin to achieve a similar status as a resort until the 1920s, when the nation-wide increase in automobile tourism began to affect the area. An important factor in bringing these tourists to Delton was the decision to utilize a portion of the village's principal thoroughfare (today's Wisconsin Dells Parkway) as part of the new USH 12. The route of this major cross-country highway passed through Chicago, Madison, and Minneapolis and the portion that passed through Delton was already a part of the State Trunk Highway system. Construction of the Wisconsin portion of this two-lane concrete highway was well underway in 1929, the year in which Marshall Memorial Hall was built, and it almost immediately brought lasting change to Delton and to the area surrounding it.

^a Goc, Michael J. Many A Fine Harvest: Sauk County 1840-1990. Sauk County Historical Society and the New Past Press, 1990, pg. 161. An enduring legacy of this period is Mirror Lake, a three-mile-long stretch of Dell Creek that was dammed in 1860, forming a long narrow lake of singular beauty that is now surrounded by Mirror Lake State Park. The more recent Lake Delton is located between Mirror Lake and the Wisconsin River.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Marshall Memorial Hall, Lake Delton, Sauk County, Wisconsin
Section number 8 Page 3

The village (Delton) revived in the late 1920s after Chicago millionaire William Newman and his associate Ralph Hines built the dam that formed the modern Lake Delton. Although Newman's dream of a thousand acre rich man's retreat failed, his lake became a tourist stop for visitors from the big city. In the early 1920s, Greg Parsons opened his Indian Trading Post (located just north of Marshall Memorial Hall on Wisconsin Dells Parkway) and encouraged the Winnebagoes to dance for visitors. These early dances ultimately evolved into the Stand Rock Indian Ceremonial. Tourism took a great leap forward with the arrival of Tommy Bartlett in the 1950s. His water ski show formed the nucleus of the Highway 12 tourist strip that has become the largest economic entity in the county and one of the largest developments of its kind in the Midwest.⁹

The new development that has occurred in and around the village of Lake Delton since the end of World War II has now almost totally transformed the built environment surrounding Marshall Memorial Hall.

Motels, restaurants, souvenir stands, miniature golf courses, theme parks, go-kart tracks, water slides and Wisconsin's first greyhound dog racing track followed in the wake of the 1950's water ski show. By 1990, development on Highway 12 from the once-sleepy village of Delton to the Wisconsin Dells bridge (across the Wisconsin River), was nearly solid and shouting for attention with all the might of modern graphic advertising. ... In the late 1980's, well over one million people visited the Dells every year -- 675,000 at the height of the season in July and August. In these two months they spent a total of \$62.5 million on lodgings, dining attractions, gifts, and a thousand other items.

While only about one half of the Dells area was in Sauk (County), its economic impact on the county was more than merely significant. By the late 1980s, nearly one-third of all economic activity in the county was generated by Dells-related ventures.¹⁰

Not surprisingly, growth of this kind has had a profound and mostly negative affect on the historic buildings and infrastructure in the area. What is surprising, however, is that Marshall Memorial Hall has remained relatively untouched by the changes surrounding it.

The Hall is named for its benefactor, Roujet De Lisle Marshall, who was born in Nashua, New Hampshire in 1847. Marshall moved to the town of Delton with his parents in 1854, where they settled on a farm located a few miles southeast of the village of Delton. Marshall attended school at the Delton Academy and the Baraboo Collegiate Institute, both in Sauk County. In 1867, Marshall began attending Lawrence College in Appleton, Wisconsin, but his studies there were interrupted by

⁹ Goc, Michael J. Op. cit., pg. 161.

¹⁰ Ibid, pg. 130.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Marshall Memorial Hall, Lake Delton, Sauk County, Wisconsin

Section number 8 Page 4

the death of his father in the same year. He therefore began reading law with attorney N.W. Wheeler in Baraboo, walking nine miles each day from the farm to Baraboo in order to do so. Marshall was admitted to the bar in 1873, after which he and his wife, Mary, moved to the city of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, where he soon became a partner with his former teacher, N.W. Wheeler. In 1876, Marshall was elected judge of Chippewa County, a post he held until 1882. As was the custom of the day, Marshall retained his private law practice while serving as county judge, and his outstanding ability soon made him one of the most respected and successful lawyers in northern Wisconsin. During this period he also began a long professional relationship as the personal and corporate attorney of F.W. Weyerhaeuser, the most powerful of Wisconsin's many lumber barons. In 1881, Marshall ended his partnership with Wheeler and began a new one with John J. Jenkins, a prominent local attorney and future U.S. congressman whose sister, Mary Jenkins, Marshall had married in 1869. Marshall and Jenkins' partnership lasted until 1888, when Marshall was elected judge of the eleventh judicial circuit.

By 1888, Judge Marshall stood at the head of his profession in his section, was classed as a man of wealth and was well known in public life. He had been County Judge of his county for six years, a Regent of the University of Wisconsin for five years (from 1884-1889), and had shaped more than any other person the important legislation appertaining to the great lumber interests of the northern part of the state, and the municipal legislation, embodying the plan for a uniform code for all Wisconsin cities. He was particularly noted in his profession as an authority on corporation law and as a legal representative of corporations in court and before the Legislature.¹¹

Marshall served with distinction as a circuit judge, giving up his practice and the large income that went with it in order to do so. In 1895, Marshall was appointed by Governor William Upham to the state supreme court in order to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Justice Harlow S. Orton. Marshall was elected to fill the unexpired term in 1896, and to a full term in 1897 and 1907, serving on the high court bench from 1895 until he was defeated for re-election in 1917. During his long tenure on the high bench Marshall wrote many important decisions and was among many other things a member of the Capitol Improvement Commission (1903-1905). Following his departure from the court he was elected president of the state bar association (1917-1918) and he also devoted much of the time until his death in 1922 to the writing of his autobiography.¹²

Throughout his career Marshall continued to maintain close ties to Delton. Central to this was his eventual ownership of the Marshall family farm, "Elmwood," which he

¹¹ Usher, Ellis B. Wisconsin, Its History and Biography: 1848-1913. The Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, 1914. Vol. 7, pg. 1998.

¹² Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography. State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1960, pg. 240.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Marshall Memorial Hall, Lake Delton, Sauk County, Wisconsin

Section number 8 Page 5

expanded to almost 1800 acres by the time of his death. The development of a statewide system of local roads and highways was also a special interest of Marshall's and he was a tireless advocate of highway improvement projects. This work Marshall aided directly by paying for some \$10,000 worth of road improvements throughout the town of Delton in the days before state aid to the counties was available. He was also a potent informal lobbyist at the state capitol on behalf of county and state aid laws for highway construction and had much to do with the creation of the basic state highway law of 1915 that enabled much of the subsequent road work in the state. As a result, by the time Marshall died the town of Delton had one of the best road networks of any rural district in the state.¹³

After his death, the childless Marshall's sizeable estate was divided among personal bequests and a number of worthy causes and institutions. In his will, besides direct bequests, Marshall also created a trust fund for the benefit of these institutions. One third of this trust was divided among three causes: the R.D. Marshall Library Fund in Chippewa Falls; the R.D. Marshall Hospital Fund in Chippewa Falls; and the R.D. Marshall Town House and Library Fund in the Town of Delton in Sauk County. This last bequest he directed be "Used as the people of such town may deem best for town house and library purposes."¹⁴ This bequest was ultimately put to use by the Town to create the building that is the subject of this nomination.

Roujet D. Marshall's exemplary public and private lives were recognized by his fellow citizens both during his lifetime and afterwards. At his death, an editorial in the Milwaukee Sentinel honored his memory by noting:

For more than forty years, from the time when, as a young man he became county judge of Chippewa county, until his retirement from the Supreme bench in 1918, Justice Marshall's life was one of uninterrupted public service. As county judge, as regent of the university, as circuit judge and finally for nearly a quarter of a century, as a justice of the Supreme court, he gave his great abilities and his remarkable attainments to the people, content with the meager pecuniary rewards of such service and finding his satisfaction in the honor and esteem in which he was held by his fellows and in doing, superlatively well, the tasks which his public offices laid upon him.¹⁵

Seven years later, when the Marshall Town House and Library was finally dedicated at a public ceremony in 1929, Marshall's former colleague, supreme court Chief Justice Marvin B. Rosenberry commented on what he supposed were Marshall's reasons for the bequest that made it possible.

¹³ Glasier, Gilson G. (Ed.). Autobiography of Roujet D. Marshall, Justice of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin, 1895-1918. Madison, 1923. Vol. 2, pgs. 247-267.

¹⁴ Ibid. Vol. 2, pgs. 606-607.

¹⁵ Milwaukee Sentinel. May 24, 1922. Obituary of Roujet D. Marshall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Marshall Memorial Hall, Lake Delton, Sauk County, Wisconsin
Section number 8 Page 6

I never discussed with the judge his motives in providing this house but I have no doubt that the principal one if not the dominant one was that it might forever be to the boys and girls of the community a source of inspiration and an undying memorial of what it is possible for a poor boy to accomplish in this country of great opportunities.¹⁶

Architecture

Marshall Memorial Hall is of architectural significance as a fine, highly intact and representative example of the Georgian Revival style as applied to a small scale public building. Designed by Madison, Wisconsin architect Edward Tough in 1928 and constructed in the same year, the Hall reflects late Georgian (sometimes known as Adam Style) design and its main block is modeled closely on surviving late eighteenth and early nineteenth century examples.

By the 1920s, the use of various manifestations of the period revival styles in the design of public buildings was all but universal in the United States and in Wisconsin. According to the CRMP's Period Revival Styles study unit:

The term "Period Revival" is often used to describe a wide range of past motifs and styles that architects borrowed during the first four decades of the twentieth century, but particularly during the 1920s. Many architects commonly advertised their expertise in a broad stylistic range during this period. The wide availability of photographs, and the popularization of revival styles through architectural journals, in concert with Beaux Arts exposure, might have allowed for greater historical accuracy. However, many of the best designs of the period are not historically "correct" copies of a mannerism, but are the architect's creative interpretation of the style.¹⁷

One of the most popular of all the period revival styles was (and is) the Georgian Revival style. This style is described in the CRMP as being:

Period Georgian Revival borrowed from the classical forms of Georgian and Federal architecture. The public's interest in the American past had been fostered by the 1876 Centennial Exposition and was first manifested in domestic architecture with the application of Georgian and Federal ornamentation to Queen Anne style houses. The pervasive influence of academically-trained architects resulted in more historically "correct" interpretations of the revival styles. Formal, symmetrical facades, rectangular plans, and hipped roofs are characteristics of the Period Georgian Revival style.¹⁸

¹⁶ Baraboo News-Republic. June 26, 1929, pg. 1.

¹⁷ Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.) Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin. Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 1986. Vol. 2, 2-28 (Architecture).

¹⁸ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Marshall Memorial Hall, Lake Delton, Sauk County, Wisconsin
Section number 8 Page 7

These characteristics are all apparent in the design of Marshall Memorial Hall. In addition, the Hall also reflects historical prototypes influenced by the Adam style, a popular variant of both the original Georgian style and its later revival. The Adam style is a late manifestation of the Georgian style that is so named because of its associations with the numerous designs of the celebrated and highly influential eighteenth century English architect Robert Adam.

Lightness and delicacy are the qualities that mark the Adam style. When there is an order, the columns or pilasters are attenuated, sometimes to the point of meagerness; porticoes and porches are given a light and airy effect by the wide spacing of the slender columns. ... In general form Adam Style houses may be rectilinear and boxlike, with perhaps a semicircular porch over the front door; ... curving steps (with light iron railings) are characteristic. Curves, both segmental and elliptical, are also used in elevations much more freely than in other classical styles. Very typical is the doorway with a semielliptical fanlight and with sidelights flanking the door, and so is the semicircular relieving arch with a window recessed within it. Roof lines are generally quiet.¹⁹

All of these Adam style features are found in Tough's design for the Marshall Memorial Hall. In addition, the design also benefits from the relatively small houselike size of the Hall. Historically, both the Georgian and the Adam styles as they developed in America were essentially residential styles. The few large-scale buildings that incorporated the characteristic elements of these styles were primarily churches and the occasional government building such as Charles Bulfinch's Massachusetts State House in Boston. Twentieth century Georgian and Adam style buildings, however, are often much larger than their historic prototypes, a situation that has resulted in many rather mannered and exaggerated designs. Because of its small scale, however, Marshall Memorial Hall is actually quite a faithful replica of earlier examples and its raised one-story design executed in a red brick is typical of a number of similar historic examples that are still to be found primarily in the southeastern states.

Edward Tough was born Scotland in 1878, and he received his training at the Technical College of Glasgow. After coming to Wisconsin he served briefly as Wisconsin's state architect from 1910-1913, then established a private practice in Madison specializing in churches and schools. Most of Tough's identified work is located in this city and it shows him to have been a typical architect of his day who could competently design many different types of buildings in a wide range of styles. Among the more notable of Tough's larger extant Madison designs are: the first unit of the Dudgeon School, 3200 Monroe St., 1927; Sherman School, 1601 N. Sherman Ave., 1927; Jacobson Auto Garage, 315 W. Gorham St., 1925; University

¹⁹ Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Styles. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1969, pg. 23.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET
Marshall Memorial Hall, Lake Delton, Sauk County, Wisconsin
Section number 8 Page 8

Presbyterian Student Center, 731 State St., 1931; Wisconsin National Guard Armory, 714-720 Market Pl., 1929; and the H.E. Reynolds Warehouse and Garage building, 609-617 E. Dayton St., 1929. In addition, there are numerous other commercial buildings and residences in Madison that are documented Tough designs and other work from his hand has been identified in the communities of Richland Center and Omro, Wisconsin. Tough continued to practice in Madison for many years, finally dying in 1970, at the age of 92.²⁰

How Tough came to be chosen as the architect of the Lake Delton commission is not known, but the site of the future Hall had been chosen by Judge Marshall during his lifetime. At the dedication ceremony of the Hall a newspaper article gave some further details.

During his lifetime, Judge R. D. Marshall recognized the need of a community building in Delton, his boyhood home and called "home" by him up to the last days of his life. The site, tentatively chosen by him, is now on the new highway 12 with the rerouting of that road through the village.

In his will, the Delton boy who became a Supreme Court justice made provision for the memorial hall, erected last year (1928) at a cost of approximately \$27,000. The architect was Edward Tough of Madison.

Through the courtesy of Albert Kriha, a resident of Berwyn, Ill., who has been coming to Delton for the summer for many years, the grounds were landscaped. Mr. Kriha secured an artist to draw up plans for the landscaping of the site, which is 300 feet long and 120 feet deep, and he also donated the materials. Elms have been planted across the front, and mountain ash will eventually enclose the other three sides.²¹

The architectural significance of the Marshall Memorial Hall lies in its being an fine, highly intact example of an Adam style Georgian Revival public building. The Hall exhibits a number of features such as "the formal, symmetrical facade," and the "hipped roof" of the Period Georgian Revival style and it also exhibits the "elliptical fanlights, sidelights flanking doorways," and the "classical columns" that are specifically mentioned as hallmarks of the style in the Period Revival Styles subsection of the Architecture Theme study unit of the CRMP.²² The Hall is a representative example of this style and its significance is heightened by its intact exterior and interior and by its continued usage as a government building. The local significance of the Hall is underscored by the fact that it is almost the only intact pre World War II non-residential building still standing in the village.

²⁰ Architects Files. State Historic Preservation Office, State Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin, and also at the City of Madison Landmarks Commission.

²¹ Glasier, Gilson G. (Ed.) Op. Cit., Vol. 2, pgs. 433-434.

²² Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). Op. Cit., Vol. 2, pg. 2-28 (Architecture).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET
Marshall Memorial Hall, Lake Delton, Sauk County, Wisconsin
Section number 9 Page 1

Major Bibliographical References Continued

Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography. State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1960.

Glazier, Gilson G. (Ed.). Autobiography of Roujet D. Marshall, Justice of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin, 1895-1918. Madison, 1923.

Goc, Michael J. Many A Fine Harvest: Sauk County 1840-1990. Sauk County Historical Society and the New Past Press, 1990.

Milwaukee Sentinel. May 24, 1922. Obituary of Roujet D. Marshall.

Usher, Ellis B. Wisconsin, Its History and Biography: 1848-1913. The Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, 1914.

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Styles. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1969.

Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin. Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 1986. Vol. 2 (Architecture).

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format
Approved 2/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET
Marshall Memorial Hall, Lake Delton, Sauk County, Wisconsin
Section number Owner Page 1

Current Owner

Town of Delton
30 Wisconsin Dells Parkway
Lake Delton, WI 53940