

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 The Badger Building

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 610 Main Street

\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Racine

\_\_\_ vicinity of

congressional district 1st

state Wisconsin 53403

code 55

county Racine

code 101

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Racine Badger Bldg. Co.

street & number 530 Main Street

city, town Racine

\_\_\_ vicinity of

state Wisconsin 53403

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Racine County Courthouse

street & number 730 Wisconsin Avenue

city, town Racine

state Wisconsin 53403

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Racine Architectural Survey - Johnson, Johnson & Roy (continued) has this property been determined eligible?  yes \_\_\_ no

date 1974 \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county  local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison

state Wisconsin 53706

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved    date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Badger Building is located on the west side of Main Street, and is flanked by the rectory of Saint Luke Church on the south and by the Janes Building on the north. The four-story Badger Building is constructed of cream-colored brick laid with raked joints, and features terra cotta ornament and trim. The symmetrical facade is accented by two strong vertical brick columns topped by a simplified, geometrical Prairie-School type capital. Smaller, recessed engaged brick piers separate the six vertical "columns" of windows in the upper three stories. There is foliate Prairie School terra cotta ornament on the parapet over the fourth story and accenting the narrow stone band around the flat roofline.

The front facade of the ground story was remodelled in the 1960s with the installation of plate glass windows to either side of the double-door center entry (itself a replacement), brick infill below, and brick blocking of the upper-story entrances to either side. A band of anodized aluminum was inserted between the first and second stories. All original windows have been replaced by anodized aluminum frame windows. Though altered, the integrity of the building is only moderately compromised and might be restored.

## 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 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** 1915–16<sup>1</sup> **Builder/Architect** Edmund Funston<sup>2</sup>

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Badger Building is the only Prairie Style commercial building in the Racine Central Business District, and one of the finest locally-designed examples in the state. With its simplified vertical elevation dominated by two foliated columns and roofline terra cotta ornament, it is an accomplished design in the manner of the Edison Shop in Chicago, a 1912 design by George Elmslie, chief draftman of Louis Sullivan and himself a noted Prairie School architect. The work of locally-significant Racine architect Edmund Funston, the Badger Building may well be his finest achievement.

Born May 19, 1868 in Champagne, Illinois, Funston received his B.A. in Architecture at the University of Illinois in 1892. After teaching manual training in Colorado for two years, he acquired one year of architectural practice in New Orleans and Atlanta. Subsequently, he was employed in the office of Joseph C. Llewellyn, a Chicago architect, for five years, and received commissions for much work in the Midwest including five buildings at the University of Illinois. In 1903 Funston went to Racine, where he was associated with A. Arthur Guilbert from 1905 to 1915. The successful Guilbert & Funston firm erected many prominent buildings in Racine in revival as well as contemporary modes. The Badger Building was one of Funston's first designs following the dissolution of the partnership. Other Funston works include the Hamilton Beach Manufacturing Company Plant, the Masonic Temple (a striking Egyptian Revival design), and a number of private residences.

In addition to his highly successful practice, Funston, with his brother, owned and operated<sup>3</sup> telephone systems in South Dakota. By 1929, he was living in Coral Gables, Florida.

<sup>1</sup>Stone, Fanny S., Racine: Belle City of the Lakes and Racine County, Wisconsin, Volume II, S. J. Clark Publishing Company, Chicago, 1916, p. 242.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Alumni Directory of the University of Illinois, 1929.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Alumni Directories of the University of Illinois, 1906, 1913, 1918, 1929.  
 Ross, Nelson Peter, "The Badger Building May Soon Be Gone," The Shoreline Leader,  
 November 4, 1976.  
 (see continuation sheet)

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

# 10. Geographical Data

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreege of nominated property Less than 0.5

Quadrangle name Racine South, WI

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

**UMT References**

A 

1	6	4	3	5	9	1	0	4	7	3	0	5	3	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

Block 33 of Original Tract  
 East 90' of South 40' of Lot 2

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert D. Long and Susan E. Karr (see continuation sheet)

organization Architectural Conservation Program date 10/17/79

street & number 730 Washington Avenue, City Hall telephone (414) 636-9280

city or town Racine state Wisconsin 53403

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

DEC - 3 1980

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Richard Murray

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 8/8/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	date <u>12/3/80</u>
<u>for Robert D. Long Susan E. Karr</u> Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Linda Hunt McClelland</u>	date <u>12.2.80</u>
Chief of Registration	

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Continuation sheet

Item number 6.

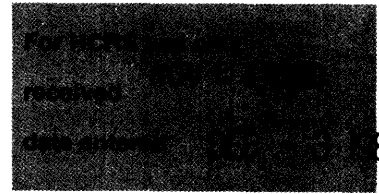
Page 1.

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Historic Architecture of Downtown Racine - Dr. Nelson Peter Ross 1975 Racine Landmarks Preservation Commission City Hall Racine	Local    Wisconsin 53403
Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places 1976 State Historical Society of Wisconsin Madison	State   Wisconsin 53706

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THE BADGER BUILDING, Racine, Racine County, Wisc.  
Continuation sheet

Item number 7.

Page 1.

DESCRIPTION (cont.)

Due to superficial "modernization," little of the original appearance of the interior of the Badger Building remains. Walls and wood moldings in offices along the north, south, and west walls on all stories have been painted a single color, eliminating any decorative detail or contrast. The original white marble wainscoting, rising some six feet in height, still lines the walls of the long east-west corridors in the center of each story, sweeping into a large cylindrical newell at the base of the stairs. A wide, jade green stripe near the top of the newell enhances the sculptural effect of that element, and suggests a "streamline" feeling in keeping with the perceived modernism of the original design.

Although the north wall of the building abuts that of the building next door, there is no link between the two.

Amended 11/17/80  
D. Filipowicz

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Continuation sheet

Item number See below

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## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Stone, Fanny, Ed. Racine: Belle City of the Lakes and Racine County, Wisconsin,  
2 vols. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1916.

Surveys

Johnson, Johnson and Roy. Racine Architectural Survey, 1974

Nelson Peter Ross, Historic Architecture of Downtown Racine: An Inventory of  
Buildings Worth Considering for Preservation, 1975

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

Diane H. Filipowicz, Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation Division

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

December 19, 1979

816 State Street

608/272-2970

Madison

Wisconsin 53706