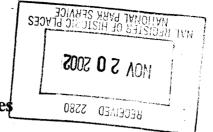NPS Form 10-900
(January 1992)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

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1. Name of Property

historic name   Hebron Town Hall

other names/site number   Bark River Woods Historical Society

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2. Location

street & number	W3087 Green Isle Drive		N/A	**not for publication**
city or town	Town of Hebron		N/A	**vicinity**
state Wisconsin	**code** WI	**county** Jefferson	**code** 055	**zip code** 53538

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally   statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Alicia L. Goehring   November 18, 2002
Signature of certifying official/Title   Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property   meets   does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title   Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

---

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

__✓__ entered in the National Register.
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined eligible for the
National Register.
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined not eligible for the
National Register.
___ See continuation sheet.
___ removed from the National
Register.
___ other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall _12/31/02_

_____
Signature of the Keeper   Date of Action

---

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as
as apply)

__X__ private
_____ public-local
_____ public-State
_____ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

__X__ building(s)
_____ district
_____ structure
_____ site
_____ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources
in the count)

contributing	noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property
listing.
N/A

**Number of contributing resources
is previously listed in the National Register**

0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
GOVERNMENT/city hall
RECREATION AND CULTURE/auditorium

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

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7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
Foundation stone

walls   weatherboard

roof   asphalt
other   wood

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Continuation Sheet

Section ____7____ Page __1_____ Hebron Town Hall
_____Town of Hebron, Jefferson County, WI_____

DESCRIPTION

Setting

The old Hebron Town Hall, built in 1902, is a large two-story building with simple Classical Revival details. It sits in the unincorporated village of Hebron, which is located in Jefferson County in southeastern Wisconsin. The town hall faces Green Isle Drive, which runs perpendicular from County Highway N located a few blocks to the west. Most of the village of Hebron's buildings are located within several blocks of the intersection of Green Isle Drive and County Highway N. The village buildings date primarily from the mid-nineteenth to early twentieth centuries and are interspersed with a few modern structures. Almost all of these buildings sit on large lots with mature trees and shrubs. The village is surrounded primarily by farmland that was settled in the late 1830s and 1840s and is still being used for this purpose today.

Green Isle Drive, originally platted as Main Street, is a two-lane country road that is paved with asphalt, but not improved with curbs and gutters. A narrow sidewalk runs in front of the town hall, creating a very wide terrace that is not landscaped. A small lawn sits between the sidewalk and the building's main elevation. Lawn space also runs along the west elevation of the building and behind the building's south or rear elevation.

On both the east and west elevations of the building are parking areas. The large parking area on the west side is paved with asphalt, while the east side parking area is a smaller, gravel-covered strip of land. A driveway runs along the rear of the building, separating it from the large rear lawn that has a play area with mid-twentieth century playground equipment (not included in the count). Several large trees are located around the edges of the rear lawn and these trees are the only landscape feature of the property.

Exterior

The Hebron Town Hall has a two-story rectangular plan. The building is topped with a gable roof that features overhanging eaves decorated with modillions. At both the front and rear elevations of the building, the roof eaves form a full pediment, the main architectural feature of the building. On the front elevation, a small fanlight decorates the center of the pediment. The entire building is clad with narrow clapboards and sits on a locally-gathered fieldstone foundation.

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Section _____7_____ Page __2_____ Hebron Town Hall
_____Town of Hebron, Jefferson County, WI_____

The main or front elevation of the building faces north. The wall is punctuated with symmetrical and simple fenestration of four windows, two per floor, flanking the main entrance. The windows are four-over-four-light, double-hung sashes covered with modern aluminum storm windows. Simple cornices decorate the tops of the windows.

The main entrance is located at the center of the first story. It consists of double wood-panel doors covered with period wooden screen doors. A cornice molding is the only decoration. The entrance is covered with a projecting entry porch that consists of a gable roof and pediment that is a smaller version of the large pediment of the main elevation. The eaves and pediment of the porch roof also have the same exposed rafter decoration. Supporting the roof are four round columns sitting on a wooden deck supported by a fieldstone foundation. Two wide wooden steps lead up to the deck. A simple metal pipe railing flanks the porch deck.

The west elevation consists of a plain wall punctuated by largely symmetrical fenestration on each story. The fenestration is made up of windows that are identical to those of the main elevation. A single window at the north end of the west elevation sits in the middle of the two stories. It corresponds to the opening lighting the interior staircase. On the south end, a second story window has been altered into an emergency exit. The window has been enlarged and filled with a wood-panel and divided light door. Attached to the door is a plain metal fire escape supported by tall metal posts.

The east elevation of the building is very similar to the west elevation. It is a plain wall with symmetrical fenestration on each story filled with the same windows. The only change to this elevation is a first floor window that sits at the south end. This window has been enclosed. Since it corresponds to a small area in the interior that was remodeled into a bathroom, the alteration probably took place in 1968. Another window was enclosed for this reason on the south elevation. All of the other windows of the south elevation are extant, as is the original back entrance that consists of a wood and glass door is that is covered with a metal screen door. A flight of wooden steps leads up to this entrance and it is flanked by a simple metal pipe railing.

Interior

The main entrance leads into a foyer, off of which is a small office, a small closet, the stairs to the second floor, and the entrance into the first floor meeting room, now used as a museum room. This entire area has a wood floor trimmed with wide molded baseboards. The entrances are all covered with painted five-panel wood doors with period hardware. The trim around the doors and windows of this area consists of painted fluted moldings joined by bull's-eye blocks decorated with stepped moldings. The walls and ceilings of this area are covered with pressed

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(Rev. 8-86)

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metal embossed with various classical designs. In the foyer, the pressed metal walls are embossed to resemble paneling that is decorated with raised moldings, beaded diamonds, and anthemions.

Above the paneled decoration is an embossed swag border decorated with a bead and reel molding. Above the border is a frieze that is embossed with a repeating design of small and large torches accented and joined with swags, garlands, and scrolls. Topping the frieze is another bead and reel molding and a curved dentil molding. The pressed metal cornice molding has an unusual bundled reed motif. The ceiling has a plain mottled border and a narrower bundled reed molding surrounding repeating panels that feature a circle and four projecting "leaves" made from beaded or arrow moldings. Inside the circle are scroll, arrow, and fleur-de-lis decoration.

The small office sits to the left of the main entrance. Its pressed metal walls and ceilings have similar classical motifs, including a lyre and torch frieze, swag border, and other moldings. But instead of a paneled look, the embossing of the office walls consists of a repeating pattern of narrow vertical bands of torches. Also embossed in one of the moldings is "E Pluribus Unum."

Through a set of painted five-panel doors is the large first floor meeting room, now used as a museum display and meeting room. At the back of the room are two separate areas. On the right, a set of painted five-panel wood doors cover a large opening that leads into the kitchen. To the left of the kitchen is another large entrance that has been enclosed with drywall and two modern doors. This area was originally known as the "band room," but was remodeled in 1968 for two bathrooms. Although the remodeling filled in the entrance, the shape of the original opening is still outlined with historic moldings.

Like the foyer area of the building, the floor in the meeting room is wood and trimmed with painted wide molded baseboards. All of the openings in the meeting room and kitchen are trimmed with painted fluted moldings joined by bull's-eye blocks with stepped moldings. Again, in the meeting room and kitchen, the walls and ceiling surfaces are covered with pressed metal, but with different embossed classical motifs. The bathrooms have been remodeled with modern surfaces.

The pressed metal design of the walls of the meeting room and kitchen is a repeating motif of torches, lyres, and palmettes. The torches are topped with either flames or anthemions and all of the motifs are accented with swags featuring garlands and ribbons along with acanthus leaves, scrolls, and fleur-de-lis. The bead and reel, curved dentil, and reed bundle moldings are repeated at the cornices. The ceiling border is a mottled frieze embossed with narrow wreaths and fleur-

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de-lis. The ceiling, itself, has repeating panels that are a variation of the torch and lyre design on the wall. But, the torches and lyres are narrower and decorated with wreaths and ribbons. They project from a central rosette. Modern fluorescent light fixtures have been installed along the ceiling, but the old hangers used for the kerosene lamps that once lit the room are still extant.

Running down the center of the ceiling in the meeting room is a large beam that is covered with pressed metal embossed with the same molding designs seen at the cornices. Supporting this beam are two round columns. In the kitchen, the walls and ceilings are covered with the same type of pressed metal as in the meeting room. The area was originally a kitchen, but old fixtures have been replaced with a modern stove, refrigerator, counters, cabinets, and sinks. The bathrooms have fixtures and floor and wall surfaces from the 1968 remodeling.

A wide, two-run, enclosed staircase with wooden risers leads to the second floor of the town hall. The wall surfaces and ceiling are all covered with pressed metal embossed with the same designs as seen in the foyer. Plain pipe railings are affixed on both sides of the stairs and there is a small landing between each run. A window lights the second run along the north wall. A small opening on the opposite wall lights the old ticket booth. These openings are trimmed with painted fluted moldings joined by the bull's-eye blocks.

At the top of the stairs is another foyer off of which are entrances to the ticket booth, a storage room and the auditorium. The entrances are trimmed with fluted moldings joined by bull's-eye blocks. The entrance to the ticket booth consists of a five-panel wood door with a small, attached, window opening that was used for dispensing tickets. A five-panel wood door covers the entrance to the storage room. All doors and trim in this area are painted. The storage room is about the same size as the corresponding office on the first floor and its walls and ceiling are covered with pressed metal, but the embossing pattern is slightly different than the foyer. The walls are embossed in a repeating criss-cross motif, while the frieze has plain and bundled reed moldings.

Behind a set of large five-panel wood doors is the auditorium, now used for museum displays. The auditorium is decorated in a similar manner to the first floor meeting room with walls and ceilings covered with pressed metal embossed in classical motifs and a narrow wood floor trimmed with wide wood moldings. The doors and windows are trimmed with fluted moldings joined by bull's-eye blocks. Like the first floor, all of the wood trim is painted.

At the south end of the auditorium is a stage that spans the entire width of the room. Each end of the stage has been enclosed with partition walls made of vertical wood boards. This remodeling was probably done in the mid- to late twentieth century. A door has been built into each

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_____Town of Hebron, Jefferson County, WI_____

partition wall and these doors are accessed by sets of wood stairs with simple pipe railings. The stairs are the original stairs leading to the stage. A large hand-painted backdrop that was probably completed during the 1920s or 1930s covers the central part of the stage. This backdrop is covered with 23 different area business advertisements painted in an artistic Art Deco motif of stylized sunburst and columns. An earlier hand-painted backdrop, probably from the years right after the building was constructed, sits behind this backdrop and also includes area business advertisements. The advertisements of this backdrop are arranged within a landscape motif.

The stage is currently used for storage. It has a wood floor and, like the rest of the auditorium, the backstage walls and ceiling are decorated with pressed metal. The classical pressed metal motifs of the auditorium are different that those of the first floor or the second floor foyer, but are consistent throughout the room. The embossing suggests wood paneling with a decoration of acanthus leaves along with egg and dart and bead and reel moldings. At the lower level of the walls and across bottom of the stage, a large circle motif is also used. The embossing of the ceiling suggests coffers and a large curved frieze with embossed swags, dentils, anthemions, and scrolls sits between the ceiling and walls.

The interior and exterior of the old Hebron Town Hall has been well-maintained by the Bark River Woods Historical Society. The main remodeling to the building occurred in the mid-twentieth century, when it was still used as a town hall. The small museum is well-maintained and features interesting displays about local history. Unfortunately, due to lack of volunteers and funding, it is currently only open for special occasions. The Bark River Woods Historical Society is making a special effort to commemorate the building's 100th anniversary in 2002.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria
qualifying the property for the National Register
listing.)

x A   Property is associated with events that have
        made a significant contribution to the broad
        patterns of our history.

B   Property is associated with the lives
      of persons significant in our past.

x C   Property embodies the distinctive characteristics
        of a type, period, or method of construction
        or represents the work of a master, or possesses
        high artistic values, or represents a significant
        and distinguishable entity whose components
        lack individual distinction.

D   Property has yielded, or is likely to yield,
      information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

A   owned by a religious institution or
      used for religious purposes.

B   removed from its original location.

C   a birthplace or grave.

D   a cemetery.

E   a reconstructed building, object, or
      structure.

F   a commemorative property.

G   less than 50 years of age or achieved
      significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1902-1952

Significant Dates

1902

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Builder: Pollock Brothers

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Section _____8_____ Page _____1_____ Hebron Town Hall
                                                                            Town of Hebron, Jefferson County, WI

SIGNIFICANCE[1]
The Hebron Town Hall, now known as the Bark River Woods Historical Society's Town Hall Museum, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C. It is being nominated under criterion A, for politics/governement, because it is a fine example of a turn-of-the-twentieth-century rural town hall building erected for town government purposes. It is the most significant building related to government in the Town of Hebron, having been the center of governmental activities for most of the twentieth century. It is also historically significant because size and amenities made the building a complete community center, allowing it to be used not only for local government, but also for a wide range of social and recreational community events and activities for the village and its rural environs.

The Hebron Town Hall is also being nominated to the National Register under criterion C, architecture, because it is locally significant as a fine and highly intact example of a turn-of-the-twentieth-century town hall that was built with details from the popular Classical Revival architectural style. Its architectural significance is primarily derived from the fact that the building's simple style merges architectural elements reflecting both the rural tradition of town hall building and the latest style being used for government buildings in larger communities. The building's very high level of integrity and its outstanding interior details add to its architectural significance.

Historical Background

The unincorporated village of Hebron sits along the Bark River and was initially settled in order to exploit the waterpower for industry. Its founders knew that the fertile lands of the town of Hebron would draw settlers after the government opened the land for sale, and that these settlers would be in need of a sawmill for building materials and a gristmill to grind the wheat they would be growing. In 1835, a group of men, including well-known Solomon Juneau, following the information given by government surveyor Milo Jones, came to the Hebron site and erected a claim shanty for their company, the Rock River Land and Claim Company. In the spring of 1836, the company built a dam on the Bark River and in the fall, they erected a sawmill.[2]

Enoch Darling operated the sawmill until 1845, then taken over by Joseph Powers, who added a shop for making bedsteads. Powers built a flourmill in 1852, and, after it burned in 1855, C. R.

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[1] This footnote pertains to the period of significance on page 1 of Section 8. The period of significance for this building includes the date of construction through the period during which it was historically and architecturally significant. The date of construction is footnoted in the text.

[2] Hannah Swart, *Koshkonong Country A History of Jefferson County Wisconsin*, Fort Atkinson: W. D. Hoard & Sons Co., 1975, p. 76; Eva Melcher, "Hebron," in *Bark River Wanderings*, Hebron: Bark River Woods Historical Society, 1980.

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Section _____8_____ Page _____2_____ Hebron Town Hall
_____Town of Hebron, Jefferson County, WI_____

Barnes rebuilt it. Unfortunately, Powers' bedstead factory burned in 1866 and he did not rebuild, relocating to Fort Atkinson and forming the Northwestern Furniture Company.[3] In 1844, Joseph Powers had John Fish prepare a plat of Hebron, but he did not record it. In 1856, F. X. Starin officially surveyed the village. By this time, due to the mill and surrounding farm activity, Hebron was a thriving village. In 1854, it was the second largest settlement in Jefferson County. During the 1840s, a school was built in Hebron and, in 1856, a Methodist church was constructed in the village.[4]

Hebron had its own post office beginning in 1868, and the three-story Hebron Hotel anchored the small village's commercial district. But, Hebron's economic fate was sealed like many villages in the nineteenth century, when the railroad bypassed the village. In an unusual story, the people of Hebron actually voted down a proposition to assist the railroad to come to Hebron in 1875. Joseph Powers, the community's most important businessman, convinced Hebron residents that the railroad would hurt local trade. A second chance at a railroad for Hebron failed due to lack of money.[5]

In 1878, Hebron could boast of two mills, two general stores, two boot and shoe shops, and a creamery producing more than 500,000 pounds of cheese. But the lack of transportation facilities resulted in a gradual decline in the community. Hebron became primarily an agricultural village, dependent on local farmers for its commercial economy. In 1905 the post office in Hebron closed, but due to a booming dairy industry in Jefferson County, Hebron still had a small, but viable economic base, with the two small mills and five creameries in the area. By 1948, though, the creameries had all closed due to consolidation in the dairy industry, and village commercial businesses declined due to the shift in retailing to larger stores in bigger towns that were easily reached via the automobile.[6]

Few new businesses or buildings were built in Hebron during the late twentieth century. An elementary school built in the mid-1950s was closed in the 1980s, and the town hall, built in 1902, was vacated in 1981 and became the Bark River Woods Historical Society museum. The Methodist Church is still active, but the only business still open is a tavern. Although Hebron's economy is no longer booming, its picturesque location and historic appearance make it a "hidden" historic place in Jefferson County.

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[3] *Ibid.*
[4] Swart, pp. 77-78.
[5] *Ibid.*, p. 78.
[6] Swart, p. 78; Melcher.

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Continuation Sheet

Section ____8____ Page ____3____ Hebron Town Hall
_____ Town of Hebron, Jefferson County, WI _____

Site-Specific Information

On April 2, 1901, the Town of Hebron held its annual town meeting. A proposition was raised to support financing a new town hall and a vote was taken. The vote was a tie—60 for and 60 against. A local resident was blindfolded and drew one of the ballots for the deciding vote. He drew a "for" ballot and the measure passed. The town voted to raise $2,000 for the construction of the town hall.[7]

The close vote may explain why the project to build the new town hall did not get underway quickly. The Hebron correspondent to the *Jefferson County Union* newspaper commented in May of 1901 on the progress of the new building: "The town hall, well, it is under way, so far as to have a plan talked up and an agreement had as to where it will be located."[8] It was not until October of 1901 that the same correspondent reported that significant work had been started at the town hall site. The correspondent indicated that local residents would haul lumber to the site the next weekend.[9]

The official builders were the Pollock Brothers, an area contracting company. The Pollock Brothers only received $100 so it is apparent that residents of the town did much of the work themselves. In December of 1901, the *Jefferson County Union* noted that the town hall would be ready in two weeks, but another mention in March of 1902 noted that W. J. Hewitt of Whitewater was at the building directing the interior finishing. In April of 1902, the newspaper reported that the Town of Hebron held their annual meeting in the new hall, and it was officially dedicated in May of 1902.[10]

Originally, the building was heated with large round wood stoves. In 1967, new heating units were purchased for each floor, and, in 1972, a furnace for the downstairs was installed in a new furnace room built in the office. For about 20 years, kerosene lamps lit the building. Hangers holding five lamps were operated by a pulley in each of the large rooms and bracket kerosene lights were located along the walls of the building. The stage also had kerosene-fueled footlights. In 1924, electrical service brought modern lighting to the hall and fluorescent lights were purchased in 1978.[11]

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[7] Bark River Woods Historical Society, "Eighty Years at the Town Hall," pamphlet published by the Bark River Woods Historical Society, c.1982.

[8] *Jefferson County Daily Union*, 24 May 1901, p. 3.

[9] *Ibid.*, 18 October 1901, p. 3.

[10] *Ibid.*, 6 December 1901, p. 3; 7 March 1902, p. 3; 4 April 1902, p. 3; 25 April 1902, p. 3; "Eighty Years at the Town Hall."

[11] "Eighty Years at the Town Hall."

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_____Town of Hebron, Jefferson County, WI_____

In 1968, the old "band room" at the back of the first floor was converted into modern bathrooms that replaced outdoor privies. The kitchen was remodeled with cupboards, plumbing and an updated stove. A well was dug to provide water for the building. In 1972, the parking lot was surfaced with asphalt paving and aluminum combination storm-screen windows were installed on the exterior of the building. In 1981, the town government vacated the building and it became the location of the Bark River Woods Historical Society and its Town Hall Museum. The historical society has operated the building ever since and features displays of local history materials that are open to the public during special occasions.[12]

Between its construction date of 1902 and 1981, the old Hebron Town Hall was the center of town government and community activities. The town government held meetings in the building and it was also used as a polling place. Both the first and second floors were also used extensively for community activities. The second floor was used for performing arts presentations and was a popular dance hall for many years. The local Hebron 4-H club used the building for meetings and club members even made the curtains that are still is use today. Although the building is not open full-time to the public, it is still a community resource. The local history museum is a center for historical activities in the community and a small, but dedicated group maintains the building and its contents. Their activities are well-attended by the local public, including their popular annual "pie social."

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture

The old Hebron Town Hall, now known as the Bark River Woods Historical Society's Town Hall Museum, is a simple, but highly intact, example of a rural town hall embellished with Classical Revival details. The form of the building is typical of rural town hall construction during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in much of Wisconsin. But its size and classical details make it stand out among town hall buildings of the area. The Classical Revival pediment and richly embossed details of the interior wall and ceiling surfaces suggest that the builders were copying details from larger institutional buildings in other communities throughout the state.

The Classical Revival style of architecture was popular in Wisconsin between 1895 and 1935. Developed by prominent architects, many of whom studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, the Classical Revival style was popularized at the World's Columbia Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, which featured a "white city" of formal, classical buildings painted white. Details of

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[12] "Eighty Years at the Town Hall."

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_____Town of Hebron, Jefferson County, WI_____

Classical Revival buildings include symmetrical form and massing, and heavy, classical details. Because of the heaviness of the style and its details, it is seen most commonly on public and institutional buildings.[13]

Although the Hebron Town Hall is a two-story front gable building that is primarily vernacular, the symmetrical form and massing, regular fenestration, "faux" modillions, and full pediment on both the main block and the front porch suggest the Classical Revival style. The interior wall and ceiling surfaces are classically influenced, although the wood trim is more typical of the earlier Queen Anne style. The use of pressed metal on all of the wall and ceiling surfaces was probably an attempt to make the building "fire-proof," but the selection of the classical patterns was probably a design choice made to enhance the classicism of what was conceived as an important government building.

Aside from its classical architectural features and décor, the Hebron Town Hall is a fine example of rural town hall construction. Its has an efficiently-designed interior that went beyond the typical town hall, which often featured only one large room with attached stage. The first floor, with its kitchen facilities was suitable for town meetings, but also for other public gatherings that required food or beverage service. The office near the foyer is also a functional feature. It allowed town officials to work or hold office hours without opening up the main meeting room, and provided a place for the storage of town records away from the large public meeting space.

Most interesting in this building, though, is its separate auditorium. The inclusion of this separate room meant that the building was designed not just as a public meeting hall, but as a community center that was as versatile as possible. The large stage and elaborate painted backdrops suggest that the building was used frequently for performing arts presentations and it is known that it was a popular location for dances. The addition of a separate, well-appointed auditorium resulted in a first-class rural facility for many community and recreational activities.

The high quality of the building's construction methods and materials adds to its architectural significance. Many historic town halls were merely simple, functional buildings with few amenities. For example, the use of pressed metal on all of the walls and ceilings of the building was probably more costly than plain plaster and paint, but it reflects a higher standard of building construction, whether it was from a fire prevention standpoint or from a decorating standpoint. In addition, the high-quality fluted moldings with bull's eye blocks that decorate all of the interior openings, the beautiful oak floors, and the raised-panel wood doors make the Hebron Town Hall a more durable as well as more attractive building. The fact that no structural

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[13] Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol. II*, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Architecture, p. 2-18.

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renovations have been needed for the building in its hundred year history, only minor updates in plumbing and electrical service, speaks to its solid construction and high-quality materials.

The high level of integrity of this building is also a factor in its architectural significance. The few changes to the building do not detract from its historic appearance. The modern bathrooms are the only significant alteration to the interior. The alterations to the exterior are also minor. The most important are the aluminum storm windows, which can be removed, and the fire escape, which does not overly detract from the historic exterior. The Bark River Woods Historical Society has done a fine job in maintaining the building during the last 20 years. They have retained all of the historic details of the building, down to the hooks that once held the kerosene lamps in the large rooms. The old backdrops on the auditorium stage, which are works of art in their own right, have even been saved.

The Hebron Town Hall is architecturally significant on the local level as an intact and well-preserved example of a turn-of-the-twentieth-century town featuring Classical Revival details. The two-story front gable frame building is typical, although larger, of rural town halls of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Classical details on both the exterior and interior of the building reflect the trend in institutional and governmental building design throughout the country during this period. The building's high quality of construction materials and methods adds to its significance and makes it an important landmark in Jefferson County.

Government

The old Hebron Town Hall is historically significant at the local level because its construction was an important event in the Town of Hebron's history. It represents the culmination of the town's growth and development. The construction of this building in 1902 occurred at a point when Hebron was still a thriving village in Jefferson County and when the community was a center of activity for the surrounding rural area. The fact that the building included a totally separate auditorium indicates that it was constructed not just to be a seat of government, but also as a community center to be used for many different public activities.

Town government has long been important in the village of Hebron. Since the village was never incorporated, town government has been its only government, and the location of the town hall in the village has meant that most of the important town activities took place there.

There are three systems of local government in Wisconsin: cities, villages, and towns. Towns are primarily rural, but may have cities, villages, or unincorporated communities located within their boundaries. When Wisconsin was a territory, the early settlers usually established both

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county and town governments. The state's constitution specified either town or county government, but generally both were established. In 1870, the state legislature formally established the town system of rural local government and all counties were organized into towns if they had not already done so. Towns were established for many reasons, but primarily because a local group wanted self-rule.[14]

Town government has two main components: the town meeting and the town board. All qualified voters make up the town meeting, and, historically, this meeting was the most significant activity of government. Today, town board activities dominate town government and board members supervise day-to-day affairs. Most towns also have a clerk, a treasurer, an assessor, and, sometimes, constables and municipal judges. More populous towns, including suburban areas near large cities, have all of these officials along with public works and planning officials, and a police force and fire department. The main focus of town government is the maintenance of roads, bridges, or other public facilities, but populous towns may also provide police and fire protection, zoning regulation, and regulation of parks and lakes.[15]

When the Wisconsin territorial legislature created Jefferson County in 1838, it was partitioned into large towns. The town of Bark River took up a large area in the southeast corner of the county. This old town included present-day Cold Spring, Hebron, Sullivan, and Palmyra. In 1842, the first official town meeting took place in the tiny settlement of Cold Spring, in Abram Brink's house. Later town meetings were held in the Hebron settlement. In 1846, the territorial legislature approved breaking up the large Town of Bark River into four towns: Sullivan, Tunbridge, Palmyra, and Bark River. Tunbridge was later divided up between the towns of Jefferson and Hebron. In 1847, the modern Town of Hebron was created from that part of the old Town of Bark River north of the river and a portion of Tunbridge. The residents chose the name "Hebron" after the hymn of the same name. The area south of the Bark River became the Town of Cold Spring in 1848 and the modern Town of Palmyra was established at this time, as well.[16]

One of the most important events in the history of the Town of Hebron was the construction of this building in 1902. The vote to construct the new town hall was taken at an annual town meeting and the measure was approved only by a tiebreaker. This controversy may have accounted for the slow start in construction, but did not reduce the scope of the building. And once it was completed, the entire town benefited from the new community center. The area

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[14] Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol. 1*, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Government, pp. 9-1—9-3.
[15] *Ibid.*, pp. 9-3—9-4.
[16] Swart, p. 77.

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benefited from the auditorium, which was used for many dances and public events that went
beyond Town of Hebron business.

The Hebron Town Hall is historically significant at the local level primarily because it was the
center of local government in the Town of Hebron during most of the twentieth century. Town
meetings and other local governmental activities for the Town of Hebron were held exclusively
in this building and its importance to the community was established during its initial
construction. Aside from raising money for the building, local residents had a direct hand in its
construction. They hauled stone for the foundation, then lumber for the structure. Although a
local builder was involved in the basic construction of the hall, town residents spent many hours
assisting in the building process. In this way, the new town hall was truly a community building
from the start.

Adding to its historical significance is the fact that the Hebron Town Hall was used for public
activities beyond local government. Local organizations used the building all the way up to its
conversion to a museum. Its many dances served an important recreational niche during the
twentieth century. It was a true community center that served many local needs, bringing many
elements of the community together for decades. The fact that the building was so well-
maintained over the years suggests its importance to the people of Hebron. Its use as a local
museum at the present time is fitting for a building long associated with the local public.

The Hebron Town Hall is historically significant at the local level because it represents the
culmination of the growth and development in the Town of Hebron during the nineteenth century
and its continued use as the center of local government for much of the twentieth century.
Adding to its local significance is its use as a community center. The size and amenities
included in the building suggests that it was planned to be a full-service public facility that could
meet the social and recreational needs of town residents in many different ways. Because of its
important local history, the building is an important landmark in the village and town of Hebron.

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):
    preliminary determination of individual
    listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
    previously listed in the National
    Register
    previously determined eligible by
    the National Register
    designated a National Historic
    landmark
    recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
    recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:
  X State Historic Preservation Office
    Other State Agency
    Federal Agency
    Local government
    University
  x Other
      Name of repository:
      Bark River Woods Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	362200	4753700	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

2				4			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

☐ See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Carol Lohry Cartwright, Consultant				
organization	for the Bark River Woods Historical Society			date	4/15/02
street & number	W7646 Hackett Rd.			telephone	262-473-6820
city or town	Whitewater	state	WI	zip code	53190

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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1901, p. 3; 7 March 1902, p. 3; 4 April 1902, p. 3; 25 April 1902, p. 3.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Hebron Town Hall is a rectangle consisting of Lots 1 and 4 and the north ½ of Lots 2 and 3 in Block 2 of the Village Plat of Hebron.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of this building has been its historic site since its original construction in 1902 and continuing during the period of significance to 1952. It includes the building and its setting.

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps   A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
                      A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs   Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	Bark River Woods Historical Society				
organization	c/o Olive Gross			date	4/15/02
street&number	W4080 State HWY 106			telephone	920-563-4773
city or town	Fort Atkinson	state	WI	zip code	53538

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HEBRON TOWN HALL, Town of Hebron, Jefferson County, Wisconsin.
Photos by Carol Lohry Cartwright, August 2001. Negatives on file in the Historic Preservation
Division of the Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin.

Views:

1 of 12:   Site view, from the northwest.

2 of 12:   Main or North Elevation, from the northwest.

3 of 12:   East and South Elevations, from the southeast.

4 of 12:   Interior, first floor, foyer, looking at front entrance.

5 of 12:   Interior, first floor, foyer, looking at closet area.

6 of 12:   Interior, first floor, meeting room, looking toward foyer.

7 of 12:   Interior, first floor, meeting room, looking toward kitchen.

8 of 12:   Interior, first floor, meeting room, looking toward bathrooms.

9 of 12:   Interior, first floor, meeting room, detail of pressed metal ceiling and frieze.

10 of 12:   Interior, second floor, auditorium, looking toward second floor foyer.

11 of 12:   Interior, second floor, auditorium, looking toward southeast corner.

12 of 12:   Interior, second floor, auditorium, looking at stage and backdrop.