

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED NOV 9 1976
DATE ENTERED NOV 7 1977

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
Turner Hall
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1034 North Fourth Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Milwaukee

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
5th

VICINITY OF

STATE
Wisconsin 53203

CODE
55

COUNTY
Milwaukee

CODE
079

CLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Milwaukee Turner Society
STREET & NUMBER
1034 North Fourth Street

CITY, TOWN
Milwaukee

VICINITY OF

STATE
Wisconsin 53203

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Milwaukee County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
901 North 9th Street

CITY, TOWN
Milwaukee

STATE
Wisconsin 53233

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Wisconsin's Historic Preservation Plan, Volume II: The Inventory

DATE
1971
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN
Madison

STATE
Wisconsin 53706

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1882-1883, Milwaukee's Turner Hall is a High Victorian building designed by Milwaukee architect Henry C. Koch. It is characterized by asymmetrical massing of forms, arched windows, and polychromy. The pavilioned, gabled-bays of the facade are Victorian Gothic. This three-story Milwaukee cream brick building has a raised stone basement, a mansard roof, and a fourth-story tower with a pyramidal roof and hipped dormers. Whereas first and third story windows of the facade are round-arched, those of the second have rectangular openings and are 1/1 double hung sash with transoms. Above the entryway in the central pavilion, a bay of three tall, narrow windows imparts overall unity to the second and third floors. The facade is distinguished by red brick banding; arched openings are similarly enframed, and the gable ends display geometric patterning in red brick.

Flat planes and segmentally arched fenestration characterize the side elevations. A two-story addition constructed on the north side in 1899 is similar in style. The roof, severely damaged by fire, had to be replaced in 1934. The front entrance was remodeled in 1958, at which time, unfortunately, the original round-arched opening was replaced with a modern random ashlar limestone structure with a square opening. At the same time the original sash windows of the first floor of the facade were replaced by glass blocks. Several of the side windows have been walled in with brick, and all basement windows are now boarded shut. As a whole, however, the original exterior has not been seriously altered and would lend itself well to restoration. The Milwaukee Turner Society, wishing to preserve its landmark building, plans a faithful restoration of the exterior and is actively seeking funds for that purpose.¹

1. Hebenstreit-Luce to Smith, January 12, 1976

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Association with ethnic social and cultural activities.	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1882-1883; 1899; 1934 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry C. Koch

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, Turner Hall is significant as a good example of the early work of the prominent 19th century Milwaukee architect, Henry C. Koch, whose most magnificent structure, the Milwaukee City Hall, a Milwaukee Landmark and also a National Register property, was built a decade later. When the new Turner Hall opened formally on January 21, 1883, local newspapers described it as the "finest in the country."¹

"The first Turner societies in the United States were organized toward the close of the year 1848."² A small group started in Milwaukee in March 1850 but dissolved early in 1853. Another group organized and first met on June 17, 1853, however. It was first called the Sozialer Turnverein Milwaukee but was soon changed to simply Turnverein Milwaukee or Milwaukee Turner Society, the name which still applies.³ Along with the Free Congregation (Freie Gemeinde) and the Society of Free Men (Verein Freier Männer), the Turner Society was one of three major organizations in Milwaukee which originally drew their strength from exiles of the German revolution and "revealed the enthusiasm of the Forty-eighters for liberal social thought and identified them with the transcendental trends already active in American society in the Middle Period."⁴ The Turners' creed was and still is liberty, reason, and tolerance: "Free speech, free press, free assembly for discussion of all questions so that men and women may think unfettered and order their lives by the dictates of conscience."⁵

"Not to physical training and development alone did the Turners devote their energy, their enthusiasm, and their idealism. They recognized the value of music and poetry, of literature and the drama. Each society had a singing organization, a dramatic section. In the old days of greater simplicity but also of greater personal dignity, ...they created for themselves the joy and the exaltation which art and music and literature afford the sons of men."⁶

The Turners were against slavery, considering it "unworthy of a republic and not in accord with the principles of freedom."⁷ In keeping with these principles, "The Milwaukee Turnverein organized a battalion of sharpshooters, and their forty members, ...augmented to 105 by Turners from other Wisconsin societies., joined the 5th Wisconsin as Company C, Turner Rifles."⁸ Needless to say, their regular, disciplined gymnastic training made them quick to become an effective fighting unit.

Both as an organization and as individuals, the Turners have contributed much to Milwaukee throughout their existence. Although it is now a predominantly social organization, the Turner Society has given the city a rich tradition in political, cultural, social and educational affairs. Not only is Turner Hall an official Milwaukee Landmark; it is also "the last survivor of the several buildings erected in Milwaukee for the Turnverein. Here Turners activities continue to the present..."⁹

1. Evening Wisconsin, January 22, 1883

2. Metzner, p. 7

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.3

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6	4	2	5	4	2	10	4	7	6	5	8	4	10
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Donald N. Anderson, Historian & Registrar, Historic Preservation Division

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

19 August 1976

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

608/262-0746

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Richard A. Curney

TITLE

Acting Director
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

10/29/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Walter R. Galt

DATE

11/2/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles H. ...

DATE

11-2-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

