

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

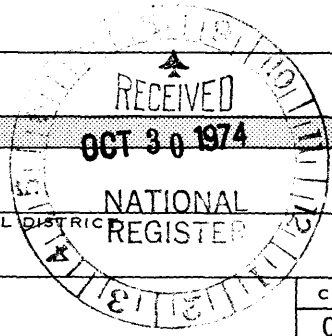
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Wisconsin

COUNTY:
Kenosha

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
DEC 17 1974



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Simmons, Gilbert M., Memorial Library

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
711 - 59th Place

CITY OR TOWN:
Kenosha

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
First

STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55 COUNTY: Kenosha CODE: 059

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<u>Library</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Kenosha

STREET AND NUMBER:
625 - 52nd Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Kenosha

STATE:
Wisconsin CODE: 55

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Kenosha County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
912 - 56th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Kenosha

STATE:
Wisconsin CODE: 55

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Wisconsin's Historic Preservation Plan, The Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison

STATE:
Wisconsin CODE: 55

STATE: Wisconsin

COUNTY: Kenosha

ENTRY NUMBER

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Gilbert M. Simmons Memorial Library was donated to the city of Kenosha by Z. G. Simmons, an important nineteenth century Kenosha businessman, as a memorial to his deceased son after whom it was named. It is situated in Library Park near the Kenosha County Soldiers Monument, also donated by Z. G. Simmons. Both the Soldiers Monument and the Memorial Library were designed by the Chicago architect, Daniel Hudson Burnham. They are Burnham's only known commissions in Wisconsin. The Memorial Library structure cost \$150,000 at the time of its construction and was dedicated on May 30, 1900.

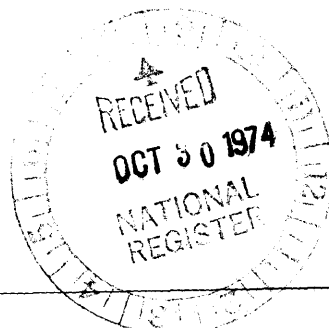
The plan of the library is a Greek-cross on a raised basement. The building is constructed of Bedford limestone and decorated with marble, bronze, mosaics, and frescos. Crowning the center of the cross is a dome raised on a drum decorated with an elegant running-swag design. The roof corners are ornamented with acanthus acroteria, and the bands of windows are ornamented with simple pilasters and are raised high above the ground.

The main entrance to the library is at the top of a low group of steps. The pedimented portico is supported by two Ionic columns and covers a pair of monumental bronze doors through which one enters into a foyer faced with dark-veined, light-gray Italian marble. Through an arch one enters the library's most elaborately-decorated room, the rotunda, which is faced with Italian marble. Four doors lead to the other rooms in the library and have architraves supported by Ionic columns. The drum of the dome is enhanced by eight red, blue and gold mosaic panels above which runs a rail molding of gold-leafed acanthus acroteria. The dome itself is painted a pale, sky-blue. The floor of the rotunda is also decorated. Its outer border is inlaid with red Italian marble in a fret pattern interspersed with plaques of bronze and embossed with classical motifs. The inner border is in a fret pattern of green marble.

To the left of the rotunda is a large reading room with a facing of yellow marble, and to the right and rear of the rotunda are the library stacks. There are meeting rooms and a bindery in the library's basement.

The Kenosha County Soldiers Monument, honoring Kenosha County men who died in the Civil War, was also designed by Burnham and was executed by the Italian sculptor Decco. It is a massive seventy-five-foot, fluted, gray-granite Corinthian column on a stepped, circular base with a six-foot-square capital topped by a winged victory.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

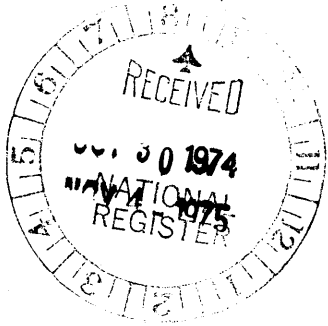
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1900**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Gilbert M. Simmons Memorial Library and the Kenosha County Soldiers Monument are Daniel Hudson Burnham's only known commissions in Wisconsin. The elegant library is one of the finest Neo-Classical Revival buildings in Kenosha, and perhaps in the state, and it is certainly one of the most richly decorated. The Kenosha County Soldiers Monument was intended as an integral part of the approach to the library on its site in Library Park, and is a significant Neo-Classical Revival work in its own right.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kenosha County Historical Society, Bulletin (Newsletter), February, 1968, pp. 1-3.

Kenosha Telegraph-Courier, May 31, 1900, pp. 1, 4, 5.

Cropley, Carrie. Kenosha, From Pioneer Village to Modern City. Kenosha: Kenosha County Historical Society, 1958, pp. 71-3.

HR
NO
UTM

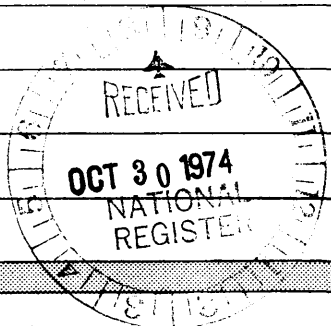
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than one**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Charlene Stant Engel, Preservation Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin** DATE: **1 July 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Madison** STATE: **Wisconsin 53706** CODE: **55**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: James Morton Smith
James Morton Smith

Title: Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Date: Oct. 23, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. R. [Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12/17/74

ATTEST:

Acty. [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kenosha	
COUNTY Wisconsin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 17 1974

(Number all entries)

SIMMONS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

6. Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Buildings and Sites (state)

1971

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

816 State Street

Madison

Wisconsin 53706

Code: 55

