

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin
COUNTY: Dodge
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE AUG 7 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Williams Free Library

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
105 Park Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Beaver Dam

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Wisconsin Second

STATE:
Wisconsin

CODE:
55

COUNTY:
Dodge

CODE:
027

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <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	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"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Public library

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Beaver Dam

STREET AND NUMBER:
205 South Lincoln Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Beaver Dam

STATE:
Wisconsin

CODE:
55

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Juneau

STATE:
Wisconsin

CODE:
55

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Wisconsin Survey of Historic Sites & Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: **1973** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

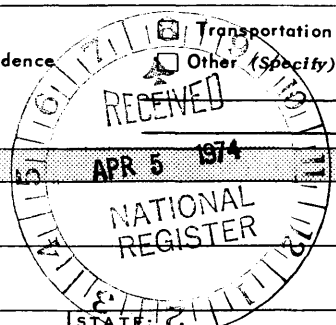
STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison

STATE:
Wisconsin

CODE:
55

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Wisconsin
COUNTY: Dodge
ENTRY NUMBER: AUG 7 1974
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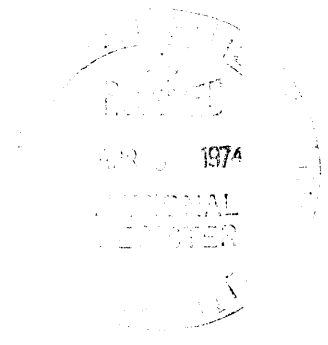
7. DESCRIPTION

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1890-1891, this is an attractive mass of rock-faced masonry, with a foundation of white Wauwatosa limestone which extends up to the bottoms of the first floor windows and a superstructure of buff Cleveland limestone. It is a two story building of Richardsonian Romanesque style and was designed by Walter Holbrook, of Milwaukee. At the left front is an octagonal tower with an octagonal-conical roof and at the right front is a square, three story tower with a pyramidal roof, and at each corner of this tower at third story level is a miniature, solid masonry circular tower with a spire-like conical roof. The building is quite typical of the Richardsonian Romanesque style in fenestration, irregularity of massing, and in the feeling of weight and massiveness it imparts.

The exterior has been relatively unaltered over the years except for a cleaning some ten or fifteen years ago which greatly enhanced its excellent coloring and the beauty of the stone. The interior has been altered to some extent by rearrangements to make more space available for use on the first floor and by constructing a balcony at second floor level to provide a separate children's library. The building has also been air conditioned in recent years.



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3. 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) **1890-1891**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input checked="" 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 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			

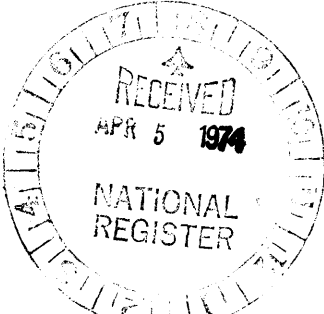
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The library is named for H. H. Williams, who built it for the city. As a library it has served the community well over the years as an educational facility. In addition to the children's and adults' libraries, situated on second and first floors, respectively, it houses the Dodge County library in the basement and so is fully used. Its record of use is good and in 1966 it had 34,500 books and an annual circulation of 122,000. Some 12,000 books have been added since that time and circulation has varied within expected limits in the years since then. The library's acquisitions and use have been increasingly limited in recent years due to lack of space.

Architecturally, the Williams Free Library building is a fine example of Richardsonian Romanesque. The architect, Walter Holbrook, was a member of the noted Milwaukee firm of E. T. Mix and Company, one of Milwaukee's "big 3" architectural firms of the second half of the 19th century. Holbrook apparently joined the firm after the Civil War and eventually became chief designer. Edward Townsend Mix had left Milwaukee about one year before Holbrook designed the library for Beaver Dam. Holbrook's work on this building was exemplary, and Perrin states that it should "under all circumstances be preserved."

The Williams Free Library is perhaps Beaver Dam's outstanding landmark and one in which the community takes much pride. It has been designated an official landmark of the city by the Beaver Dam Landmarks Commission. Current plans call for the building of a new public library, but the people wish to preserve the present building. The choice to erect a new library was made in large part because it was felt undesirable to alter the fine old building by making an addition to it. The building will therefore be preserved in its original state on the outside, although some restoration and/or refurbishing may be necessary inside. Its most probable adaptive use will be that of housing the Dodge County Historical Society's headquarters and museum.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Beaver Dam Argus, July 16, 1891
 Beaver Dam Daily Citizen, April 19, 1966
History of Williams Free Library, (Beaver Dam, 1966)
 Perrin, Richard W. E., Letter, Nov. 3, 1967, to Mayor Alvin J. Beers, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin

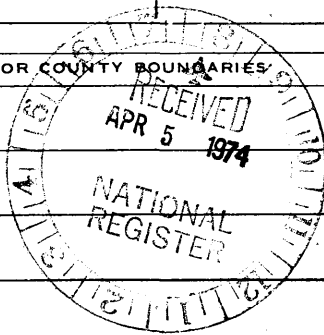
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		N 43° 27' 21"	W 88° 50' 12"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1.0**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Donald N. Anderson, Asst. Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin** DATE: **March 14, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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
Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Date 4/1/74

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date AUG 7 1974

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register
Keeper of The National Register

Date 8/1/74

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