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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.

1. Name of Property

historic name Baileys Harbor Town Hall/McArdle Library  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number	2392 County Trunk Highway F	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Baileys Harbor	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Door	code 29 zip code 54202

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Alicia J. Cox 3/10/2000  
Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer-WI 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

Baileys Harbor Town Hall/McArdle Library  
Name of Property

Door  
County and State

Wisconsin

**4. National Park Service Certification**

- 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*

4.21.00

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**5. Classification**

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- 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
	2 structures
	3 objects
1	5 <sup>1</sup> total

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

Public Library Facilities in Wisconsin

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

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT

EDUCATION

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT

EDUCATION

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL REVIVAL

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation LIMESTONE

walls LIMESTONE

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

**Narrative Description**

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

<sup>1</sup>The non-contributing elements consist of a modern sign, flagpole, 1959 war memorial and pair telephone booths. Various modern wooden benches are scattered around the perimeter of the building; however, because these are not permanently installed, they are not counted among the property's elements.

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Baileys Harbor Town Hall/McArdle Library  
Door County, Wisconsin

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**Describe the historic and current condition of the property.**

The Baileys Harbor Town Hall/McArdle Library is centrally located at the northwest corner of CTH F and STH 57 in the community of Baileys Harbor. The property is situated on a landscaped, 1.174-acre lot with scattered trees, shrubbery and benches. The surrounding area is largely comprised of a historic-period commercial district along the shore of Lake Michigan. Residential dwellings and a small park are found to the west. Six elements are associated with the property: the town hall/library, a sign, a flagpole, a war memorial and two telephone booths. Of these, only the town hall/library is regarded as contributing. The non-contributing elements consist of a modern sign, flagpole, 1959 war memorial and a pair of telephone booths. Various modern wooden benches are scattered around the perimeter of the building; however, because these are not permanently installed, they are not counted among the property's elements.

Town Hall/Library (contributing, 1937-1938):

Oriented on a north/south axis, this architect-designed town hall/library is comprised of two parts: the original block constructed in 1937-1938, and a smaller, rear block erected in 1995. Resting on a poured concrete foundation, the one-and-one-half-story original block reflects a Colonial Revival influence. The walls are built of locally quarried uncoursed limestone and support a side-gabled roof sheathed with recently installed slate tiles. An octagonal tower with louvered openings, conical roof and a weathervane is centered on the roof. Embellishments include the following: a stepped parapet with stone coping; two projecting entrance bays with original fanlights, returned eaves and denticulated cornice; oculus windows; and symmetrical fenestration. All of these attributes help define the structure's period revival style. The 1995 addition was constructed in a sympathetic design with similar materials. Fenestration throughout the building consists of modern replacement windows and doors; however, the new windows display the same multiple-light configuration as the original sashes and retain the original stone sills.<sup>2</sup> The recent origin of the addition renders it non-contributing.

The primary (east) facade of the original block fronts STH 57 and features a gabled projecting entrance bay at each of the north and south ends. They are accessed via concrete steps that are anchored by low limestone walls topped with stone slabs. The bays include modern, aluminum-and-glass, double doors placed within round-arched openings that are accented by stone voussoirs and keystones. Each entrance is highlighted by an original, hanging light fixture and an original fanlight. The fanlight rests above a wooden frieze that tops the modern double doors. The south entry's frieze is inscribed "McArdle Library," while the north entry's inscription reads "Town Hall." On each entrance bay, the gabled roof has returned eaves and a denticulated cornice. A wooden sign reading "Baileys Harbor Town Hall" is affixed to the south corner of the south entrance bay.

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<sup>2</sup>Jane Pluff, Town Clerk, Interview with Lena L. Sweeten, 25 February 1999, Notes on file at Heritage Research, Ltd., Menomonee Falls, WI. The roof was re-tiled at the time additional renovations were undertaken in 1995; however, the original roof also was composed of slate tiles of similar shape and color. Many of the exterior alterations to the building, such as the roof tiles and new windows, were selected to reproduce the appearance of the original materials. The scope of the renovations will be discussed in greater detail below.

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original, oculus window is centered on each of the north and south walls of both bays. small, square, louvered opening is immediately north of the south entrance bay at the basement level. Between the two entrance bays, the east elevation's symmetric fenestration at the basement level consists of four, eight-light, awning-type sashes while the main level carries four, eight-over-twelve, double-hung windows. The windows on the main level are accented by flat arches with central keystones and stone sills. A historic-period, metal plaque is affixed to the center of the elevation, and bears the inscription, "This Library and Town Hall was donated to the Town of Baileys Harbor by Michael W. McArdle Oct. 6 1874 - May 16 1935 Erected 1937." A simple wooden cornice extends between the two entrance bays, and a datestone carved with the year "1937" on each side wraps around the south corner of this facade.

The original block's symmetrical south elevation carries three eight-light openings at the basement level and three eight-over-twelve sashes along the first floor. The latter openings are accented by flat arches with central keystones and stone sills. The upper half-story is punctuated by two, eight-over-eight windows and a wooden, paneled door with six glass panes in the upper one-third. A metal fire escape on the south corner of this elevation leads from the door and terminates just above the main level.

At the south corner of the west (rear) elevation is an eight-light opening at the basement level, with an eight-over-twelve sash directly above on the main level. A switchback concrete stairwell with an ascending and a descending staircase is roughly centered on this facade. The descending flight leads to a basement entry and is partially shielded by a concrete-block wall faced with limestone; a pair of eight-light sashes is adjacent to the steps. The ascending flight provides access to an entry on the main level. This entry is comprised of a modern, metal door with a plate-glass pane; a modern light fixture is centered above it. An eight-light, basement-level sash is situated at the foot of the steps; directly above on the main level is an eight-over-twelve window. The two windows on the main level are highlighted by flat arches and stone sills. A stone chimney rises from the west slope of the tiled roof, and a cornice extends between the south corner of the rear addition.

The west facade includes the non-contributing 1995 addition at its north end. The overall appearance of the architect-designed wing was intended to blend with that of the original block. Thus, it is sheathed with locally quarried limestone, and its symmetric fenestration and entrance bay are reminiscent of those found on the original block. The addition is attached to the main block via a hyphen. Projecting from the south wall of this hyphen is a gabled roof overhang with returned eaves, supported by two stone columns. Fenestration of the addition differs somewhat from that of the original block. A round arched opening leads to an entry comprised of a set of modern, aluminum-frame and glass double doors topped by a one-light, rounded transom. One-light, oculus windows flank the portals and echo the appearance of the round windows on the east elevation's entrance bays. The south gabled end wall of the 1995 wing carries four, regularly spaced, one-light sashes along the first level; a one-light oculus window is centered beneath the gable peak. The parapeted roof features stone coping similar to that found on the original

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block. Along the west elevation of the addition is a series of six windows, with two rectangular, one-light, fixed sashes at each corner and four square, one-light, fixed sashes ranged just beneath the eave. All of the windows have stone sills, and the two rectangular openings are further accented by stone flat arches. The north wall is dominated by a projecting bay window consisting of seven one-light, fixed sashes topped by clerestory glass panes. The pent roof overhang is covered with slate tiles. A one light, oculus window is centered beneath the gabled peak. At the north corner of the addition's east facade, a modern light fixture is attached to the wall. A modern aluminum-frame and glass door is situated at the west corner of the connecting hyphen' north wall.

Returning to the original block, the north elevation displays symmetrical fenestration consisting of two basement openings, one of which is filled with metal louvers and the other with an eight-light sash. In addition, there are three regularly spaced, eight-over-twelve, double-hung sashes along the main level, and a semi-circular, louvered opening centered beneath the gabled peak. The windows are again highlighted by stone sills and flat arches, and the stepped parapet features stone coping.

At the time of its construction in 1937-1938, the original block of the town hall/library measured 40' x 105'. The full-length basement was designed to incorporate a variety of functions, including a kitchen, dining room, restrooms and storage/furnace rooms. The main level included both the library and an auditorium space. Measuring 16' x 20', the library was located at the southwest corner of the building. An auditorium with dimensions of 57' x 37' and a seating capacity of 350 occupied much of the remaining space. A four-room apartment was situated within the upper half-story, and provided living quarters for the building's first caretaker. A number of original interior fixtures are intact, including original terrazzo floors and metal railings with wooden handrails in both entrance lobbies, the (refinished) hardwood floor in the auditorium, the stage at the south end of the auditorium and interior doors and window sills.<sup>3</sup>

Significant remodeling of the town hall/library was undertaken during the 1990s. A lawsuit based upon the Americans with Disabilities Act prompted the town board to initiate architectural alterations to make the building fully accessible. The total cost of the project reached \$700,000. Because the lawsuit was based on a federal civil rights law, all of the modifications were carried out with federal oversight and approval. Subsequently Potter Lawson, an architectural firm based in Appleton, created the plans for a 199 expansion. In keeping with the board's wishes, the plans provided for a large wing that would echo the original block in terms of style and materials. Thus, the 1,700-square-foot addition features walls with a limestone veneer comprised of locally quarried stone oculus windows, rectangular windows similar to the sashes in the main block and projecting entrance bay comparable to the original pair. Furthermore, the board attempted in many ways to retain the historic appearance of the main block: by installin

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<sup>3</sup>Mary Ann Johnson, "Baileys Harbor Town Hall dedication of 1938 recalled," *The Door County Advocate* Newspaper clipping in "Baileys Harbor History" Vertical File, Baileys Harbor Branch, Door County Library.

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replacement windows with multiple lights and wooden interior frames that reproduce the appearance of the original sashes; by refinishing the hardwood floor; and by retaining original elements such as the terrazzo floors in the lobbies, wooden interior window sills and two original interior staircases. However, numerous interior alterations also were carried out. The basement level was completely refinished to contain a meeting room, office, records room, voting booth room and library storage, while a previously existing lavatory was refurbished to conform to ADA standards. On the main level, the former ticket booth was reconfigured to serve as a cloak room, and a former office was redesigned as kitchen. An elevator and modern flight of stairs were installed on the northwest side of the auditorium. The auditorium's vaulted ceiling was refinished with modern acoustic tiles, while wainscoting installed approximately eighteen years ago was left intact. Howard Immel, Inc., of Green Bay, served as the general contractor for all facets of the remodeling project.<sup>4</sup>

War Memorial (non-contributing, 1959):

The war memorial is comprised of a granite marker placed on a concrete base. The marker face is carved with a representation of a bald eagle perched upon a shield and encircled by a laurel wreath. A star is centered above the eagle's head, and two stars flank the eagle and shield. The shield bears the date "1959." To either side of the central motif the following inscription is carved: "DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO SERVED THIS COMMUNITY IN A WARS." Centered below, in slightly smaller letters, are the words "BAILEYS HARBOR LIO CLUB." The war memorial is considered non-contributing, due to the fact that it was erected in 1959, which is beyond the bounds of the National Register's general fifty-year principle.

Flagpole (non-contributing, ca. 1959):

Mounted on a concrete base, this metal flagpole stands directly behind the war memorial. It is believed to have been added to the site at the same time as the memorial, and therefore considered to be non-contributing.<sup>5</sup>

Sign (non-contributing, ca. 1960s):

This sign is situated along the east boundary of the subject property. Its rustic appearance is achieved through a group of variously sized logs bound together by rope support elements for the side-gabled roof, which is sheathed with wooden slats. Each sign

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<sup>4</sup>Pluff, Interview with Sweeten, 25 February 1999; Linda Adams, "Community spirit was building bloc The Door County Advocate, 20 January 1995; "Town hall, library dedication to parallel 1938 celebration," Door County Advocate, 20 June 1995.

<sup>5</sup>Jane Pluff, Town Clerk, Telephone conversation with Lena L. Sweeten, 17 March 1999, Notes on file Heritage Research, Ltd., Menomonee Falls, WI.

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of the sign has a pair of plexiglass-covered panels that offer space for community information bulletins. Between the plexiglass panels on the south side, a public telephone is affixed to a wooden panel supported by four wooden legs. A hand-painted, wooden sign centered on the roof reads "Visitor Center" and includes an arrow pointing toward the town hall. This object is non-contributing, due to its modern date of construction.

Telephone Booths (non-contributing, ca. 1970s):

A pair of public telephone booths stand at the northeast corner of the subject property. Constructed of standard aluminum and glass, the modern booths are considered to be non-contributing.

**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.)

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.

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)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1937-1949\*

**Significant Dates**

1937-1938

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Schmitt, Sylvester J.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

\*The period of significance begins with the construction date and terminates in 1949 in keeping with the National Register's general fifty-year old principle. However, the facility has continuously functioned in its capacity as a town hall & library to the pres



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**Explain the significance of the property.**

Statement of Significance:

The Baileys Harbor Town Hall/McArdle Library is locally significant and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. With regard to Criterion A, the subject property has significant historical associations with the development of local government, the proliferation of public libraries, and the Depression-era Works Progress Administration's public works construction program. As a town hall, the building has acted as a locus for civic activities and thus fostered a sense of community identity among local residents. Since its establishment in 1938, the library facility has offered an educational resource for Baileys Harbor's citizens and is representative of the establishment of libraries in early-twentieth-century, rural America. Additionally, the project was partially financed by the Works Progress Administration, which played an enormous role in transforming the American public landscape during the 1930s. As for Criterion C, the subject building is a fine example of the Colonial Revival style, and displays a visually striking use of locally quarried limestone. Sylvester J. Schmitt, architect based in Two Rivers, Wisconsin, designed this structure.

The Baileys Harbor Town Hall/McArdle Library also meets the registration requirements for the multiple property listing: Public Library Facilities of Wisconsin. The Baileys Harbor building is an example of the Municipal Building/City Hall Library type as discussed in the multiple property form and meets its registration requirements by its high level of integrity and continuity of use.

Historical Background:

Baileys Harbor was the first village site white settlers chose on the Door peninsula. The village was the nucleus of Baileys Harbor Township, which was officially organized in 1871 and enlarged in 1871. But the creation of the township occurred over a dozen years after the namesake of both the township and village initially discovered the area's excellent harbor off Lake Michigan.<sup>6</sup>

Captain Justice Bailey navigated a schooner owned by Milwaukee industrialist Alan Sweet. The cargo typically included stone and lumber, while the destination commonly was Detroit. In 1848, Bailey was returning to Milwaukee after shipping goods to either Detroit or Buffalo--sources are conflicting. Regardless, it is known that Bailey encountered a storm on Lake Michigan while he was off the shore of present-day Door County. The situation compelled him to consider seeking shelter in a large harbor he noticed on the east coast of the peninsula. Although navigation charts were sketchy regarding the harbor's depth and accessibility, Bailey risked piloting the vessel toward that point. Not only was the harbor deep enough to lay anchor, but pine trees along the shoreline provided

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<sup>6</sup>Hjalmar Rued Holand, *Old Peninsula Days: Tales and Sketches of the Door County Peninsula*, 3d ed. (Ephraim, WI: Pioneer Publishing Co., 1925), 232; *History of Northern Wisconsin* (Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1881), 266.

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protection from the treacherous weather. Waiting out the storm for several days, Bailey discovered that his safe haven consisted of abundant timber stands and stone ridges resources he knew would interest his employer. Thus, along with favorable stories of the harbor--a harbor that fellow navigators quickly dubbed after Bailey--the captain brought samples of the area's resources to Mr. Sweet in Milwaukee.<sup>7</sup>

An ambitious entrepreneur, Sweet recognized the potential profit these natural resources represented in the building industry. Therefore, in 1849, he bought a 125-acre tract near the harbor Bailey discovered. Sweet wasted no time tapping the resources, sending men to build a sawmill and a stone quarry; they also constructed a pier, from which 2,500 cords of wood were shipped to Milwaukee in 1850. At this time, workers built six log houses and created the first road on the peninsula, which extended from the harbor to the Green Bay shore. These developments boded well for the fledgling village; moreover, they were truly significant for Door County, which had not been officially organized up to this point. Indeed, to bolster the success of his village, Sweet not only initiated the separation of Door County from Brown County in 1851, but had his village established as the new county seat, complete with a lighthouse erected with the aid of a government contract. Sweet originally named the village "Gibraltar," symbolic of the area's rocky ledges; however, "Baileys Harbor" already had been a formal moniker, which served as the ultimate designation.<sup>8</sup>

As quickly as the fortunes of the village soared, they slid. Sweet's interest inexplicably vanished; fire destroyed the sawmill, while the pier and log houses deteriorated. In the throes of this downturn, Sturgeon Bay replaced Baileys Harbor as the county seat in 1851. Still, the natural advantages of the area attracted subsequent stone and lumber entrepreneurs, including A. K. Sea and Joseph Smith ("Cedar King of Door County"). In particular, a lively lumber/shipping trade emerged by the 1870s. Woodcutters lived alongside fishermen, who plied the harbor's coast, and among farmers, who began settling inland. With a population of four hundred in 1879, the Village of Baileys Harbor featured a flour- and sawmill, two general stores, two hotels, and two piers; carpenters, blacksmiths and shoemakers offered services in the village, which had been established as a post office as early as 1860. In addition to many of the latter services and shops, the village included several saloons and a shingle mill by 1895.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>Holand, *Old Peninsula Days*, 232-33; Mary Ann Johnson, *A Mini Historical Walk of Downtown Baileys Harbor* (Baileys Harbor, WI: Baileys Harbor Historical Research Foundation, 1995), 1; James B. Hale, *Going for the Mail: A History of Door County Post Offices* (Green Bay, WI: Brown County Historical Society, 1996), 8.

<sup>8</sup>Holand, *Old Peninsula Days*, 234-36; Johnson, *Downtown Baileys Harbor*, 1; Hale, *Going for the Mail, History of Northern Wisconsin*, 255.

<sup>9</sup>Holand, *Old Peninsula Days*, 237-41; Johnson, *Downtown Baileys Harbor*, 1; Hale, *Going for the Mail*, Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* (Madison, WI: Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), vol. 2, *Industry*, 18/2; *Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1879* (Milwaukee: William Hogg, 1879), 83-84; *Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1896* (Chicago: R. L. Polk & Co., 1895), 162.

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Despite this growth, market gluts and nationwide financial panics continually plagued the village's lumber/shipping industry; timber depletion effectively destroyed it. As population figures fluctuated between 150 and 300 from 1895 to 1927, the village became more of an agricultural support center as the township increasingly relied on farming. Furthermore, the village began to reflect Door County's evolution as a vacation destination, featuring the Evergreen Camp Summer Resort, the Old Homestead Inn and the Scenic Grove Resort, all by 1917. By mid-century, there were at least twice as many accommodations--not including trailer camps and Camp Henry Graas for Boy Scouts--which popular tourist attractions ranged from an eighteen-hole golf course to a local spectacle known as Bird's Park, a showcase of Albert Zahn's Bird's Park. The recreation/resort industry remains a significant aspect of the village's economy. For instance, as recent as 1996, the village offered charter fishing boats, a wildflower preserve known as The Ridges, a hiking and birding facility called Ridge's Sanctuary and numerous galleries, shops, restaurants and lodges. In addition, the village serves an important municipal function. Since 1937, it has housed the town hall for the civil town of Baileys Harbor, which had a population of approximately eight hundred in 1996.<sup>10</sup>

Resource Specific History:

The Baileys Harbor Town Hall/McArdle Library represents a confluence of three significant historical trends in American history: the growth of local government services in the early twentieth century, the proliferation of libraries in small towns and the impact of Depression-era work relief programs on the public landscape. The subject property was initially made possible by a local citizen, Michael W. McArdle, who offered a donation of \$35,000 to be used toward construction costs. Born in Baileys Harbor in 1874, McArdle became a successful Chicago industrialist. But he did not forget his hometown. In 1930, prior to his donation for the town hall/library, he sponsored construction of a new church for his former fellow parishioners of St. Mary of the Lake, then proposed the town hall/library the following year. Both buildings consist of locally quarried limestone, material which McArdle insisted upon.

The town hall/library quickly assumed a significant role in the community life of Baileys Harbor. Since its creation in 1851, Door County has evolved as a rather sparsely settled county. Therefore, perhaps the most pervasive signs of government are at the local level. Due to the organizational framework of local government in Wisconsin, the town hall holds

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<sup>10</sup>Holand, *Old Peninsula Days*, 237-41; *History of Northern Wisconsin*, 266-67; *Wisconsin State Gazetteer 1895-1896*, 162; *Polk's Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1903-1904* (Chicago: R. L. Polk & Co. 1903), 192; *R. L. Polk & Co.'s Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1907-1908* (Chicago: R. L. Polk & Co., 1907), 201; *Polk's Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1917-1918* (Detroit: R. L. Polk & Co., 1917), 168; *Polk's Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1919-1920* (Detroit: R. L. Polk & Co. 1919), 172; *Polk's Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1927-1928* (Detroit: R. L. Polk & Co. 1927), 134-35; Hjalmar Rued Holand, *History of Door County Wisconsin: The County Beautiful*, 2 vols. (Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1917), 1:173; *Tourist Map of Door County, Wisconsin, with Directory of Summer Resorts* (n.p.: Door County Chamber of Commerce, ca. 1950[?]); Mary Ann Johnson, "Carvings of Albert Zahn found in major museums," *The Door County Advocate*, 15 October 1993; *State of Wisconsin 1997-1998 Blue Book* (Madison: WI: State of Wisconsin, 1997), 729; "Door County's Bailey's Harbor," Website <http://doorcountyvacations.com/Communities/BH.html>, accessed 13 February 1998.

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a special role in the civic life of many rural communities. Within the state, towns "comprise the most numerous ... units of local government....Typically, they are composed largely of farms, and may have one or more small concentrations of population which are described as hamlets or unincorporated villages, often at prominent crossroads." As of 1997, Wisconsin numbered 1,266 towns. The state's town government system is based upon England's model of local government. Specifically, both historically have facilitated direct democracy, allowing all voters the opportunity to discuss pertinent issues at town meetings. Concerns generally revolve around budget items, local taxes, zoning ordinance and maintaining/providing an adequate infrastructure; the meetings occur at least once a year. An elected town board, including from three to five supervisors and perhaps a town administrator, enacts decisions made at town hall meetings. Town board members serve two year terms and are assisted by other clerks, such as a secretary, treasurer and assessor. Typically, town business is conducted at the town hall, rendering such facilities locally significant.<sup>11</sup>

Moreover, the town hall is often the largest public building within a community and consequently therefore serves a variety of other functions as well. This is the case in Baileys Harbor. The subject property historically included a large auditorium space, complete with a raised stage. Its multiple uses were highlighted at the original dedication ceremony, where musical performances took place in the auditorium and a luncheon was held in the basement dining room. In subsequent years, the local school held Christmas programs at the facility, and basketball hoops were installed in the auditorium to provide local school teams with a home court. Today, the structure continues to serve as a vital community center. According to the town clerk, the auditorium is rented almost every day during the summers for various activities, including educational presentations by the Ridges (a local wildflower sanctuary), family reunions, quilt shows, musical concerts, weddings and anniversary/graduation parties. Year round, local Boy Scout troops and the Senior Center host meetings at the town hall. School play rehearsals also take place in the auditorium.

Before McArdle's generous sponsorship, Baileys Harbor used a small, white frame structure on Bluff Road as the town hall. The circa 1895 building is no longer standing. While the extant facility erected in 1937-1938 was a vast improvement over the original hall, it was truly a novelty with regard to the library portion. That is, prior to McArdle's gift Baileys Harbor did not have a public library. Thus, the subject building was undoubtedly a welcome addition to the community.

However, the community's lack of a public library until the early twentieth century was not unusual. Following the national pattern, the first libraries in Wisconsin generally consisted of private collections that wealthy citizens maintained in their homes and

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<sup>11</sup>Note that Door County was separated from Brown County in 1851; in turn, Kewaunee County was created from Door County in 1852, when Door County assumed its present-day boundaries. Hale, *Going for the Mail*, 3; Wya Cultural Resource Management, vol. 1, Government, 9/1-4 (includes quoted material); *State of Wisconsin Book, 1997-1998*, 231.

<sup>12</sup>Pluff, Interview with Sweeten, 25 February 1999.

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occasionally lend to the public. Often, these prominent individuals would ultimately give their collections to their respective communities, which found space for the books in extant facilities, such as stores or government-related buildings. In other instances, clubs and voluntary organizations might maintain libraries. While the aforementioned efforts were typical of the late nineteenth century in general, a movement was underway to establish "public-sponsored" libraries funded through local tax assessments that had to meet community approval. The Wisconsin Public Library Act of 1872 only gradually resulted in the establishment of thirteen recognized public libraries throughout the state over the next twenty years. Citizen support for taxation was frequently an obstacle. But committed volunteers of the Wisconsin Library Association and, subsequently, the Wisconsin Free Library Commission touted the intellectual and developmental benefits, as well as the acculturative process reading offered all ages in a largely immigrant society. These promotional campaigns helped increase the number of free libraries in the state from 2 in 1896 to 211 by 1922. Citizen-backed taxes funded many of these; however, wealthy individuals played a significant role by sponsoring public libraries as a philanthropic gift or in honor of certain individuals. For example, beginning in the 1890s, industrialist Andrew Carnegie eventually funded 1,679 libraries in the nation, including sixty-four in Wisconsin.<sup>13</sup>

When Carnegie funding diminished as a result of World War I, local initiatives assumed the lead as a community library became a matter of civic pride. Still, wealthy citizens continued to fund construction in many instances. This was the case with the extant library in Baileys Harbor; McArdle's \$35,000-donation provided the bulk of funding for the facility's construction. Regardless of funding source, many public libraries were large, prominent-looking edifices, often architect designed. Similarly, the distinctive stone construction of the subject property is likely not coincidental. Older and more modest public libraries alike also became integral community centers, providing education as well as community pride. The residents of Baileys Harbor quickly took advantage of their new resource. Within a month of the library's opening, 109 borrower's cards had been issued with 57 going to hometown adults, 18 to local children, and 34 to summer residents. The patrons had checked out an average of four books each, ranging from classics, popular novels, magazines, and reference volumes.<sup>14</sup>

In addition to McArdle's donation, construction of the Baileys Harbor Town Hall/McArdle Library also was partially funded by the WPA, a Depression-era public works program. WPA workers--who were largely unskilled--graded and leveled the site, excavated and built the basement, landscaped the grounds and constructed concrete sidewalks and curb and gutters around the lot. The involvement of the WPA in the project is significant for several reasons. Prior to the 1930s, the federal government had pursued comparatively few public works projects. However, the New Deal mandate to provide unemployed Americans with relief prompted enormous expenditures on parks, community centers, roads, dams, bridges and

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<sup>13</sup>Wyatt, *Cultural Resource Management*, vol. 3, Education, 5/1-3.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid., 5/4-5; "109 patrons of Baileys Harbor town library," *The Door County Advocate*, 8 August 1933, typed transcript in "Baileys Harbor History" Vertical File, Baileys Harbor Branch, Door County Library.

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similar publicly oriented facilities across the country. One scholar notes that the cumulative effect of myriad New Deal programs was to place "a federal facade on the public architecture of local communities." In this instance, the term "facade" has two meanings: First, architectural historians have placed many of the buildings constructed during the era in one of two categories, dubbed Government Rustic and WPA Modern. Neither is derived from regional vernacular traditions, thus creating a noted departure from much of the projects of the 1930s built environment. Yet, the emphasis on rejuvenating local economies through job creation often led to labor-intensive building techniques using locally available materials, such as timber or limestone (as in the case of the subject property). As a result, many WPA-built facilities display a distinctive architectural style that is quite consistent from region to region, while their use of local materials provides a clear visual and aesthetic tie unique to their immediate surroundings. Second, and less empirically, WPA projects provided a rallying point for many communities devastated by the Depression. County courthouses, town halls and community centers could serve as gathering points "recreating in physical terms a sense of shared purpose and togetherness that the depression had shattered." The centrality of Baileys Harbor's town hall to its community life has been clearly demonstrated, and bears out this premise.<sup>15</sup>

The following contractors were involved with various phases of the town hall/library construction in 1937-1938: Ed B. Olson Co., Sturgeon Bay, general contractor; A. B. Wilson Co., Baileys Harbor, plumbing and heating; Nebel Electric Co., Sturgeon Bay, electrical wiring; F. J. Stroh & Son, Sturgeon Bay, painting and decorating; and Harbor Lumber Company mill work and building materials. Olson's quarry provided the limestone building materials as well. Henry Schultz, township foreman for all of the Baileys Harbor WPA projects, also acted as general foreman of the crews on the town hall/library. The total cost of the project reached \$50,000; in addition to McArdle's donation and the labor furnished by the WPA, a public subscription bought new seats for the auditorium, and the Ladies Improvement club equipped the kitchen and dining room. The latter instance provides further evidence of the considerable support local residents expressed for their new community center.

Sylvester John Schmitt, an architect from Two Rivers, designed the original block of the town hall/library. His training included business administration studies at St. Norbert College in the early 1920s, engineering courses at the University of Wisconsin in the mid-1920s and early 1930s, and architectural classes at Syracuse University during the same period. His career began in approximately 1930, when he worked as a draftsman for the Schmitt Lumber Company. By 1934, his association with the lumber company had ended, and Schmitt listed himself as a designer in the local city business directory. Within two years, he had established an architectural firm in Two Rivers. Schmitt's career endured for more than three decades. He was a partner in the firms of Stubenrauch, Brandt & Schmitt from 1940 to 1950 and of R & S Architects from 1960 to 1963; he also maintained

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<sup>15</sup>Johnson, "Town Hall dedication of 1938 recalled"; Carroll Van West, "'The Best Kind of Building': The New Deal Landscape of the Northern Plains, 1933-42," *Great Plains Quarterly* 14 (Spring 1994), 129-30, 136-3 including quoted material.

<sup>16</sup>Johnson, "Town Hall dedication of 1938 recalled."

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the independent practice he began in 1934. Additionally, he served as a naval architect from approximately 1940 to 1945. Over the course of his career, Schmitt's work encompasses residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, transportation and landscape design projects. Schmitt's principal works included Sacred Heart School (1949) in Manitowoc; the Manitowoc County Hospital (1950); St. Marks Convent and Rectory (1952) in Two Rivers; Holy Redeemer Congregational Church (1957) in Two Rivers; St. Sevastopol Consolidated School (1968) in Sturgeon Bay; and the Paragon Electric Company Inc., building (1970) in Two Rivers. The subject property appears to have been among Schmitt's earliest commissions.<sup>17</sup>

Architecture:

The Baileys Harbor Town Hall/McArdle Library is a fine example of 1930s Colonial Revival design that retains a high degree of architectural integrity. This is despite the non-contributing 1995 library addition; its location to the rear and use of building material that is very similar to the original block does not detract from the overall historic integrity of the structure. General Colonial Revival elements are discussed in *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin (CRM)* and in *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. Primary characteristics include an accentuated front door, fanlights, symmetrical fenestration, double-hung sash and denticulated cornices; these elements are evident in the subject property. Colonial Revival was among the most popular styles in America between 1880 and 1955. According to *CRM*, its peak popularity in this state occurred between 1895 and 1920, with a later recurrence in the 1920s to 1940s.<sup>18</sup>

The selection of the Colonial Revival style for the subject property bears cultural interest as well. Interest in colonial American architecture was first ignited by the Philadelphia Centennial of 1876. According to architectural historian Alan Gowans, the Colonial Revival embodied the pluralistic and democratic ideals upon which the American republic had been founded. Architects who utilized the various sub-types of Colonial Revival, such as Georgian, Dutch or Adamesque Revival, employed commonly accepted motifs such as columns, fanlights, symmetrical fenestration--which symbolically represented agreed-upon concepts of equality and democracy. As a result, courthouses, post offices and town halls constructed in the early decades of the twentieth century not unexpectedly display Colonial Revival attributes. These served as visible reminders to residents of their role in a society governed by the democratic will of the people. Even modest government buildings, such as the subject property--which does not display opulent high-style characteristics--nevertheless conveys the same message. The stylistic shapes they employ

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<sup>17</sup>Wright's Manitowoc (WI) City Directory 1930 (Milwaukee: Wright Directory Co., 1930), 461; Wright's Manitowoc (WI) City Directory 1934 (Milwaukee: Wright Directory Co., 1934), 386; Wright's Manitowoc (Manitowoc County, Wis.) City Directory 1936 (Milwaukee: 1936), 377; George S. Koyl, ed., *American Architects Directory* (New York: R. R. Bowker Co., 1956), 490; George S. Koyl, ed., *American Architects Directory* (New York: R. R. Bowker Co., 1962), 622; John F. Gane, ed., *American Architects Directory*, 3rd ed. (New York: R. R. Bowker Co. 1970), 811.

<sup>18</sup>Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, vol. 2, Architecture, 2/17; Virginia and I. McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1993), 321.

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were only vaguely derived from classical precedent, but the symbolic language was universal, even when the forms were only suggested. Thus, while academic examples of the Colonial Revival were found in the 1930s, many designs were simplified and influenced by the minimalism of the modern movements without fully rejecting historical vocabulary. While the International Style and Art Moderne were popular in the 1930s as symbols of advancing industrial technology and progress, many Americans felt uncomfortable with the implications behind those styles. They preferred the familiar and traditional attributes of Colonial Revival as visual expressions of security and stability--both of which often seemed to be sorely lacking during the Great Depression. As a result, hybrid buildings such as this one, are characteristic of the period.

The Baileys Harbor Town Hall/McArdle Library is, therefore, representative of this period of the Colonial Revival style, in terms of design and as a manifestation of the cultural beliefs the style embodies.<sup>19</sup> It is also representative of the turning away from recreation of historical models and of minimizing the use of historical vocabulary. Another trend of the period, seen here and on numerous other public works era examples, is the use of local materials, especially native stone.

The Baileys Harbor Town Hall/McArdle Library is further significant as an example of property type, the combination of a municipal building and a library. The building brought together town services and provided a home for public and community events. In some examples of the type, the public library was dedicated the use of a single room in the municipal building. However, in the early twentieth century, library facilities became integral parts of the facilities, with their own wings or rooms and entrances, as in this example. By expanding the library facility, rather than moving to new and larger quarters, the Baileys Harbor Town Hall/McArdle Library remains a functioning example of the type.

**Summary:**

The Baileys Harbor Town Hall/McArdle Library is eligible for the National Register on the basis of Criteria A and C. The property shares characteristics typical of local government facilities that also function as community centers, is associated with the proliferation of rural libraries and is representative of Depression-era WPA public works projects. All of these factors combine to render it eligible under Criterion A. Additionally, the building is eligible under Criterion C as a fine example of the transitional 1930s Colonial Revival architecture and the symbolism that style entailed, and as an example of the combined municipal building/library type.

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<sup>19</sup>Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, vol. 2, Architecture, 2/17; McAlester, *Field Guide*, 326; Carole Rifkind, *A Field Guide to American Architecture* (New York: New American Library, 1980), 21; Alan Gowans, *Styles and Types of North American Architecture: Social Function and Cultural Expression* (New York: Icon Editions, 1992), 249, 266.



Baileys Harbor Town Hall/McArdle Library  
Name of Property

Door  
County and State

Wisconsin

### 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:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - \_\_\_ Other State Agency
  - \_\_\_ Federal Agency
  - \_\_\_ Local government
  - \_\_\_ University
  - \_\_\_ Other
- \_\_\_ Name of repository:  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 1 acre

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

1	<u>1/6</u>	<u>4/9/0/2/1/1</u>	<u>4/9/9/0/0/7/4</u>	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

<b>name/title</b>	Lena L. Sweeten, Laura Abing, Traci E.Schnell	<b>date</b>	9/20/99
<b>organization</b>	Heritage Research, Ltd/	<b>telephone</b>	414/251-7792
<b>street &amp; number</b>	N89 W16785 Appleton Ave.	<b>zip code</b>	53051
<b>city or town</b>	Menomonee Falls	<b>state</b>	Wisconsin

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Baileys Harbor Town Hall/McArdle Library  
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Baileys Harbor Town Hall/McArdle Library  
Door County, Wisconsin

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

Beginning at the curbline of the northwest corner of the intersection of CTH F and STH 5 proceed west 286.9 ft along CTH F to the rear property line, thence north 200.6 ft to the north property line, thence 183.75 ft northeast along Steinke Avenue to the west curbline of STH 57, thence 247.5 ft southeast along STH 57 to the point of beginning.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary lines coincide with the existing property lines and contain the land historically associated with the resource.

Baileys Harbor Town Hall/McArdle Library  
Name of Property

Door  
County and State

Wisconsin

### 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.)

<b>name/title</b>	Town of Baileys Harbor	<b>date</b>	9/20/99
<b>organization</b>		<b>telephone</b>	920/839-9509
<b>street&amp;number</b>	2392 CTH F	<b>zip code</b>	54202
<b>city or town</b>	Baileys Harbor	<b>state</b>	WI

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Baileys Harbor Town Hall/McArdle Library  
Door County, Wisconsin

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BAILEYS HARBOR TOWN HALL/MCARDLE LIBRARY (Perspective view)

2392 CTH F

BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI

Photo by Lena L. Sweeten

February 1999

Negative at SHSW

View to Northwest

Photo #1 of 10

BAILEYS HARBOR TOWN HALL/MCARDLE LIBRARY (East facade)

2392 CTH F

BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI

Photo by Lena L. Sweeten

February 1999

Negative at SHSW

View to West

Photo #2 of 10

BAILEYS HARBOR TOWN HALL/MCARDLE LIBRARY (South and west facades)

2392 CTH F

BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI

Photo by Lena L. Sweeten

February 1999

Negative at SHSW

View to Northeast

Photo #3 of 10

BAILEYS HARBOR TOWN HALL/MCARDLE LIBRARY (West and north facades)

2392 CTH F

BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI

Photo by Lena L. Sweeten

February 1999

Negative at SHSW

View to Southeast

Photo #4 of 10

BAILEYS HARBOR TOWN HALL/MCARDLE LIBRARY (East facade, entrance bay)

2392 CTH F

BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI

Photo by Lena L. Sweeten

February 1999

Negative at SHSW

View to West

Photo #5 of 10

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Door County, Wisconsin

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BAILEYS HARBOR TOWN HALL/MCARDLE LIBRARY (South facade, entrance bay)

2392 CTH F

BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI

Photo by Lena L. Sweeten

February 1999

Negative at SHSW

View to North

Photo #6 of 10

BAILEYS HARBOR TOWN HALL/MCARDLE LIBRARY (War memorial)

2392 CTH F

BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI

Photo by Lena L. Sweeten

February 1999

Negative at SHSW

View to Northwest

Photo #7 of 10

BAILEYS HARBOR TOWN HALL/MCARDLE LIBRARY (Flagpole)

2392 CTH F

BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI

Photo by Lena L. Sweeten

February 1999

Negative at SHSW

View to Northwest

Photo #8 of 10

BAILEYS HARBOR TOWN HALL/MCARDLE LIBRARY (Sign)

2392 CTH F

BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI

Photo by Lena L. Sweeten

February 1999

Negative at SHSW

View to North

Photo #9 of 10

BAILEYS HARBOR TOWN HALL/MCARDLE LIBRARY (Telephone booths)

2392 CTH F

BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI

Photo by Lena L. Sweeten

February 1999

Negative at SHSW

View to Southwest

Photo #10 of 10

