

INTENSIVE SURVEY FORM Historic Preservation Division State Historical Society of Wisconsin

<b>1</b> City, Village or Town: Baraboo	County: Sauk	Surveyor: M. Rose D. Filipowicz	Date: 6/81 8/81	Street Number
Street Address: 515 Oak Street		Legal Description: City of Baraboo, formerly Adams, all of Block 27	Acreage: approx. 1.5	
Current Name & Use: Sauk County Courthouse		Current Owner: County of Sauk; Attn: Opal Kohlmeyer, County Clerk		
Film Roll No.	Current Owner's Address: 515 Oak Street, Baraboo, WI			
Negative No.	Affix Contact Prints			
Facade Orient.				
Special Features Not Visible In Photographs: see Description of interior, Architectural Statement, Item 3.				
Interior visited? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No				

<b>2</b> Original Name & Use: Sauk County Courthouse	Source	Previous Owners	Dates	Uses	Source	Town Range Section
Dates of Construction: 1906	Source A					
Architect and/or Builder: Ferry & Clas, Milwaukee	Source A					

<b>3</b> Architectural Significance <input type="radio"/> Represents work of a master <input checked="" type="radio"/> Possesses high artistic values <input checked="" type="radio"/> Represents a type, period, or method of construction <input checked="" type="radio"/> Is a visual landmark in the area <input type="radio"/> Other: _____ . <input type="radio"/> None.	<b>4</b> Historical Significance <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with lives of significant persons <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with significant historical events <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with development of a locality <input type="radio"/> Other: _____ . <input checked="" type="radio"/> None.
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<p><b>Statement of Architectural Significance:</b></p> <p><u>Description:</u> Aside from the replacement of the original lantern-like cupola in 1915, the Sauk County Courthouse retains its original Neo-classical form. A low cut limestone wall forms a closed balustrade around the open terrace on the front (east) facade, spanning the recessed center portion of the building; facing the terrace, two-story Ionic pilasters topped by cut-stone consoles divide the center double-door entry from paired rectangular openings to each side. A raised basement story "supports" the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(over)</p>	<p><b>Statement of Historical Significance:</b></p> <p>The present Sauk County Courthouse was preceded by two earlier buildings in Baraboo, and another in the first county seat at Prairie du Sac. In 1846, two years after the county itself was organized and the Prairie du Sac courthouse was built, the seat moved to Baraboo; in 1848, the first Baraboo courthouse was completed using funds from the sale of lots of the original plat of the village.<sup>B</sup> In the fall of 1855 a grander red brick structure was built in the center of the public square to supplant its frame predecessor. Some five weeks after the county board voted to construct a newer courthouse, the brick courthouse burned in December of 1904.</p>
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<b>5</b> Sources of Information (Reference to Above)	<b>6</b> District Classification
<b>A</b> Baraboo <u>Evening News</u> , August 18, 1906.	District Name: _____
<b>B</b> "History of Sauk County Courthouse," Program Brochure, Dedication of Courthouse Addition,	<input type="radio"/> Pivotal <input type="radio"/> Contributing <input type="radio"/> Non-Contributing
<b>C</b> _____ 1963.	Initials: _____ Date: _____
<b>D</b> _____	
<b>E</b> _____	

<b>7</b> Representation in Previous Surveys: <input type="radio"/> HABS <input type="radio"/> NRHP <input type="radio"/> WRL <input type="radio"/> Local Landmark <input checked="" type="radio"/> Other: <u>WIHP</u>	<b>8</b> Eligibility for the National Register <input checked="" type="radio"/> Eligible <input type="radio"/> Not Eligible <input type="radio"/> Unknown local Initials: <u>DHF</u> Date: <u>10/81</u>
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Architectural Statement (cont.):

applied colonnade. The center of the facade is filled by the pedimented door frame (with sculpted crest on its face) and three long lights above. A plain entablature, denticulation, projecting cornice, and low parapet crown the two-story cut-limestone walls. In the center of the hipped roof, the original open cupola with its tall finial has been replaced by a four-sided clock tower. On the side elevations (north and south), broad pediments cover single doors and transoms in the center of the basement story. Large paired, double-hung windows are set in three shallow recessions of the second and third story walls. To the rear (west), a three-story courthouse annex was attached via a two-story bridge in 1963; that (nearly detached) portion of the building is not considered significant to the nomination.

Although most of the county offices inside the 1907 courthouse have been modernized, the center stairwell and corridors dividing rooms from east to west remain in original form. Paneled barrel vaults and plaster walls above the marble wainscoting have been repainted periodically; egg-and-dart moldings and console-like capitals under the ceiling ribs and between panels have been regilded. Of special interest and significance in the interior is the former courtroom (now County Board Room) on the west side of the second story. Recently restored after a fire, the Renaissance-style chamber is covered by a paneled-rib barrel vault; walls retain their paneled wainscoting, tympani, and pilasters, and the north wall (formerly behind the judge's bench) is articulated with a center fronton and side doors topped by entablatures.

The physical focus of the city of Baraboo, the courthouse square is enclosed by the business district; that concentration of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial buildings has potential for designation as an historic district, in which the courthouse would be a pivotal element. The broad lawns, tall trees, paved walks and street furniture on the site make the courthouse square the city's principal park space as well.

Significance: The Sauk County Courthouse is Baraboo's largest and most prominent public building. The cut stone Neoclassical design represents a period of construction, as well as the work of regionally-significant architects. Appropriately, the building was designed by (George B.) Ferry & (Alfred C.) Clas; the latter, born in nearby Sauk City, was due "Much credit...for the great interest he has taken in the erection of a satisfactory building in this, his home county."<sup>A</sup> From the time that the partnership was formed in 1890 until George Ferry's death in 1918, the Milwaukee-based firm was one of the best-known and highly-regarded in the state. Their major achievements include the Frederick Pabst House (1890-92) in Milwaukee, Milwaukee Public Library (1895-99), and the State Historical Society (1900) in Madison, all listed in the National Register.

The \$83,384 cost of construction (T. C. McCarthy, Madison, Contractor - source A) included the decoration of a handsome Renaissance-style courtroom on the second story. Well-preserved and newly-restored, the room appears today as on the day of dedication.

