

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin	
COUNTY: Iowa	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
FEB 1	1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Iowa County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **NW Corner of Iowa and Chapel Streets** Congressmen to be notified:
Sen. William Proxmire

CITY OR TOWN: **Dodgeville** **Sen. Gaylord A. Nelson**
Rep. Vernon W. Thomson

STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55** COUNTY: **Iowa** CODE: **049**

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	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **County of Iowa**

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Iowa County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Iowa and Chapel Streets**

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Historic American Buildings Survey**

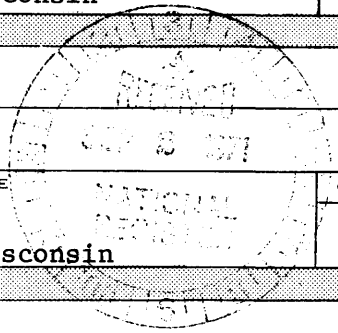
DATE OF SURVEY: **1941** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: **11**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: **Wisconsin**

COUNTY: **Iowa**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: **FEB 1 1972**

DATE: **1972**

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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 1859, the Iowa County Courthouse is a two-story Temple style Greek Revival building of locally quarried buff Galena limestone. The stonework is superb, done with carefully tooled stone which was quarried, dressed and laid by Cornish workmen, the majority of whom had come directly from Cornwall.¹ In typical Cornish fashion, the stone blocks were so closely fitted that minimal amounts of mortar were necessary.

The striking architectural feature of the courthouse is its gleaming white, two-story, wood tetraprostyle portico, with the massive pediment surmounted by a dome-crowned octagonal cupola. The columns are fluted and the entablature is Doric, "directly inspired by the classic Parthenon in Athens."² Following Greek custom, the columns are inclined inward to correct optical illusion and give the appearance of solidity. The plans were drawn by Ernest Wiesen, of Mineral Point, a cultured man of his day who had graduated from the University of Berlin. Architects seem generally to agree that Wiesen's design was taken chiefly from Edward Shaw's Modern Architecture, but some of the refinements apparently arose from Wiesen's personal knowledge of Classic European architecture.

The front doorway is pedimented and supported by pilasters, the whole composition being of carved stone. A similar pediment is found over the doorway at the side entrance. Except for a decorative, arched, complexly muntined large window above the pediment of the side entrance, windows are all simple double-hung sash. Sometime before 1959 the muntins were removed from these windows so that each window now has a single large pane.

A number of alterations have occurred over the years in that increasing space needs grew along with population and in 1894 an addition of 42' x 42' was required. This was a relatively simple elongation of the west end of the structure. It followed the original construction exteriorly in the use of matching stone taken from the same quarry as the original and just as carefully cut, tooled and laid. This gave the building overall dimensions of 107 feet in length, 42 in width, and 44 to the ridge of the roof. By 1927 it was again necessary to add to the building and an ell 52 feet long and 44 feet wide was built northward from the west end. That was the final addition. In 1937, however, deterioration of the columns and other parts of the portico demanded that restoration be done. A complete rebuilding of the entire portico was carried out with the utmost fidelity, with exact duplication of all mouldings and other millwork details taken from samples of the originals.

Interior changes necessitated by use and space demands have occurred over the building's history, especially at times when additions to the courthouse were made. Nevertheless, while much of the interior of the original building has undergone alteration, it has not been gutted and rebuilt. The exterior remains unchanged except as already noted.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. Neal, Robert M., "The History of the Court House," Centennial Story, (5)
 2. Ibid., (3)

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1859

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

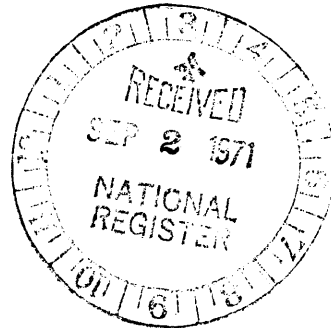
- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <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 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

While the Iowa County Courthouse is the oldest in continuous use in Wisconsin, its principal area of significance is architectural, which is perhaps best summarized by Perrin, who states, "This is the only important remaining example of a public building in the Temple variety of the Greek Revival style...A similarly designed court house at one time stood in Mineral Point, but was torn down many years ago. While no such fate threatens the Iowa County Court House, it is important to see to it that it never will be threatened with destruction. It is an outstanding piece of work, unique in the state and in the Middle West, and deserving of careful attention and preservation."¹

1. Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Buildings, 30.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Neal, Robert M., "The History of the Court House," Centennial Story - The Iowa County Courthouse, 1859-1959, Centennial Committee, Dodgeville, Wis., 1959, pp. 1-8 (not numbered).
 Perrin, Richard W. E., The Architecture of Wisconsin, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1967, 63-64.
 Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Buildings, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, 1962, 30.
 Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Architecture, Wis. Chapter, American Institute of Architects, 1960, 22.
 Newcomb, Rexford, Architecture of the Old Northwest Territory, Univ. of Chicago Press, 1950, 133.

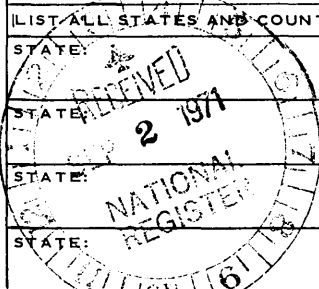
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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 42° 57' 41"	W 90° 07' 49.6"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **0.5**

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, Assistant Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin** DATE: **April 22, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

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

Date: AUG 30 1971

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

Ernest A. Connolly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

FEB 1 1972

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Madford
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: January 14, 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS