

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

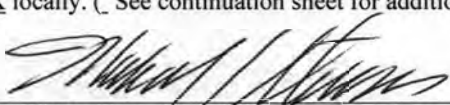
historic name ISLAND WOOLEN COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number	900 SECOND AVENUE	N/A	not for publication
city or town	BARABOO	N/A	vicinity
state	WISCONSIN	code	111
code	WI	county	SAUK
code	111	zip code	53913

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.)


Signature of certifying official/Title


Date

State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

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

ISLAND WOOLEN COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING

SAUK

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ 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

8-18-11

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	0 buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	0 total

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

N/A

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

0

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE /TRADE: BUSINESS

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

PRAIRIE SCHOOL

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation BRICK
walls BRICK

roof SYNTHETICS

other CONCRETE

Narrative Description

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

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Section 7 Page 1

ISLAND WOOLEN COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING
Baraboo, Sauk County, WI

DESCRIPTION

The Island Woolen Company Office Building is located on the west bank of the Baraboo River, at the south end of Attridge Park, just west of the Second Avenue bridge, and about two-thirds of a mile west of downtown Baraboo, Wisconsin. It is the only remaining building of the former Island Woolen Company mill complex, which ran along the river, north of the existing building. The façade and main entrance to the building are oriented to the west.

The lot configuration on the recent survey reveals that the office building is on a confined lot, which tightly surrounds it with access easements to Second Avenue to the south and to the garage entrances on the lower level on the river side. A gravel parking lot adjoins the rear. On an adjacent parcel behind the building on the river side is a steel pole city garage building. A public sidewalk runs perhaps 15 feet distant and parallel to the façade, and an asphalt-paved parking lot lies west, beyond it. The site is open to Second Avenue, which runs south of the building in a largely east-west direction then broadly curves and runs to the north, then west again to the west bridge crossing the Baraboo River upstream.

The reference to the "island" on which the mill originally stood was based on the site when it was first developed for a mill in the 1850s. A raceway was cut from above a dam upstream and ran to the east across the oxbow toward the mill downstream. The oxbow loops toward the north. The mill raceway had long ago been filled in and no trace is readily visible.

The construction of the office building began in September 1917, and the building was largely completed in early 1918. It was built as the southernmost attachment to an older office and factory building to the north. It was built in a Prairie School styled design by Claude & Starck, architects, from Madison, Wisconsin. The plans are in the Northwestern Architectural Archives in Minneapolis at the University of Minnesota.

The raised two-story masonry building faces southwest by west. The lower level or basement is fully exposed on its east side facing the river by the slope from west to east.

The two-story building was built of load-bearing masonry and steel, with a sand-colored tapestry-textured brick exterior, a low-pitched roof, which slopes to interior drains. It has a rectangular form with the long side, measuring 69'-4" oriented roughly southwest by west (referred to as west) and the width measures 34'-0". The west-facing façade has a one-story projecting entrance antechamber served by a brick masonry and concrete stoop. According to the architect's drawings, its side flanges were intended to serve as platforms for Prairie School styled concrete urns. It is not known whether urns were installed.

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The north end has a quadrangular utilitarian segment, set back from the west façade of the building, which contains the stair and once connected the newer office building to the older office building to the north. Following the demolition of the old office building, the stair was retained and the common wall was sheathed with new brick. The upper two stories appear to be set on a base of flat simple bond masonry and topped by a soldier brick course as a water table, above which the window panels are set.

The fenestration pattern of the first and second stories on the west and south facades is part of a design motif found in school, hospital, public, and commercial buildings of the Prairie School and Secessionist-styled buildings by Claude & Starck, as well as other progressive architects. The fenestration of these facades is comprised of vertically aligned deeply-set panels with single double-hung windows, set one above the other, with masonry panels between floors and separated laterally by brick pilasters or piers, with wide flat corner piers. The piers between the windows are flush with the entablature/wall across the top. Flat wall areas surrounding the windowed sets are ornamented by two rows of regularly spaced single dark brick ends, marking the inside and the outside of the border surrounding each window set. These create a minimal degree of ornamentation and effectively serve as a frame for the windowed area. The south wall of the basement is partly exposed, increasingly so toward the river to the east, and has utilitarian windows to light the basement garage. The rear building wall, which faces the river, has standard single and double window openings on the first and second stories, and has three garage bay openings on the lower, or basement, level.

As to architectural ornamentation, the columns, or piers, between the windows bear the most detailed of installations – the cast white concrete capitals and plinths. Cast white concrete sills run beneath the grouped windows of the west and south facades. Small flat square white concrete blocks mark the inside and outside corners of the brick borders which frame the grouped windows of the west and south facades. The white cast concrete appears to be made of crushed white stone and white mortar. The parapet wall is flat and topped by a narrow white concrete coping course with an ogee form.

The exterior entrance stoop is comprised of low brick walls with concrete steps and pad leading to the front door. It is a more recent reconstruction by the Sauk County Historical Society to recreate the appearance of the original stoop, which had previously been removed when the site was regraded to create an at-grade entrance. Originally flanking the entrance was a pair of ornamental leaded-glass lights by Giannini & Hilgart of Chicago. These had long been removed.

Elevations

The west elevation is the main façade front of the building. It is a raised two-story flat brick façade with a one-story projecting central entrance pavilion, landing and stair meeting the entrance walk. The building mass is a rectilinear horizontal box, set on its foundation of the same brick and separated by a watertable of soldier-course bricks, with a simple small cornice of cast stone. A double border of

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rectilinear brick courses further define the ends and top of the brick mass as if to outline and separate the building edges and the windowed area of the brick face. The distinctive fenestration consists of twelve single double-hung windows on the second story and ten on the first story, which are vertically aligned and horizontally separated by brick piers. The windows are set in recessed panels and flanked by brick piers with cast stone capitals and base plinths set as a continuous cast stone sill atop the watertable soldier course of bricks. The northernmost west façade is part of a quadrangular appendage that once connected the building to its predecessor, an older two-story office building, long since demolished. The offset short west-facing façade segment is a simplified version of the main west façade with a vertically aligned window on the second and first stories and only the soldier course of brick for ornament.

The north side of the building features a return on the main mass of the building with one window set framed by piers with the previously described cast stone ornament. The balance of the north side is the quadrangular wall running toward the river side of the building – narrower on the back than on the west face. Part of the exterior wall of the 1890s office building remains, though clad with a composite stuccoed material. This small segment of the building contains the stair and has an exterior door connecting to a ramped sidewalk running toward the west of the building.

The east side or rear of the building, facing the river, has single and paired double-hung windows irregularly spaced on the second and first floor. It is ornamented only with the base watertable band of brick and the cornice of cast stone. It has no masonry piers or panels. The basement level is fully exposed and has one garage door, another former garage door later closed with masonry, a passage door with a wooden hood (later), and four small double-hung windows toward the north end.

The south end of the building, which is oriented to the Second Avenue bridge, carries the ornamental features of the front façade – windows set in recessed panels and flanked by brick piers with cast stone ornament. The basement level is partly exposed from the west to the east or rear and has four small single-sash windows.

The site is tightly bound to the building by lot boundaries, though visually is defined by lawn on the west side and a bit on the south side embanked area adjoining the building. The recently rebuilt curved driveway runs along the south side below a concrete block retaining wall and down to the garage level and fills the adjoining lot nearly to the river.

Floor Plan

The floor plan of the building is somewhat uncomplicated. The garage, or basement level, is largely open. The first floor has a single open space running lengthwise, with offices along the back side and the front north end. An entrance foyer, no longer partitioned from the main space, projects toward the

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ISLAND WOOLEN COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING
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west. The second floor is largely open except for two former restrooms at the northeast corner adjoining a small nurse's station. Original plans indicate the partial separation of the main space to serve as lunch and lounge areas for men and women separately – of which the partition walls have been removed. Another small room adjoins the front north end. The stairway is the small quadrangular addition to the north.

The interior of the building is almost as uncomplicated as the exterior. The lower level garage and basement are unfinished. The stair at the north end is unfinished and features bare brick walls, a cast concrete stair and iron pipe rails.

Interior Finishes

The interior of the first floor, or main level, was originally finished with plaster walls and ceilings with quarter-sawn oak baseboards, window and door trims. The southeast corner office, an executive office, additionally had a chair rail and a partly wood-paneled ceiling, evident only by a single small section of oak ceiling panel and the ghosts of the remainder, which had long been removed. It also has much of the paint remaining on the walls – sponged tan walls above a missing chair rail and dark green below the chair rail line. Will McFetridge, the company's Vice President, likely painted this room. The ceiling has an octagonal shadow of a former light fixture canopy.

The foyer has a ceramic art tile wainscot on the side walls and there is terrazzo flooring throughout the first floor. U.F. Durner of Milwaukee installed both; the company specialized in art mosaic and terrazzo.¹ No vintage light fixtures remain on the first floor, though paint shadows indicate cylindrical ceiling-mounted fixture canopies throughout.

The second floor had soft-wood (unknown species) base boards, window and door trims, and a compound cornice trim, all in simple designs, many of which remain. The window trims of the two main rooms on the second floor were simple in that they had plaster returns rather than wood casings. The wood panels of a built-in day bed in the nurse's station remain attached to the three walls. Though no original lighting fixtures remain in place on the second floor, vintage schoolhouse-styled, ceiling-mounted light fixtures are found on the second floor, and may have been the ceiling fixtures that had been removed. The floor is unfinished concrete, per the original plans.

The north stairwell is unfinished with brick and stone walls and a simple concrete stair with an industrial pipe handrail. The north wall is the remnant of the older office building, which was partly replaced by the newer building. Its weathered cream-colored brick and stone foundation walls are exposed.

¹ Island Woolen Co. Coll., Edward P. McFetridge correspondence, Wisconsin Historical Society Archives, Box 61. Urban F. Durner letters.

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INTEGRITY

The building's exterior is largely intact, though it had site alterations and has had window replacements – both of which were redone in recent years to recreate the earlier and long-time appearance that the building had during the period of significance. The exterior entrance sconces had long been removed.

On the interior, alterations have removed some partition walls, built-in counters, and some finishes. The partition walls that were removed include the wall separating the main entrance foyer from the offices, a closet wall in the office on the north end of the first floor, and a partial wall separating the men's and women's lounge spaces on the second floor. Wood trims around doors and windows, and cornice moldings are largely in place on the second floor. Built-in desks and rails, baseboards, chair rails and a wood ceiling found in the executive office in the southeast corner of the first floor of the building were removed.

In general, the exterior appearance, the interior plan and some of the finishes are largely intact and well represent the period of significance. The features that define the building as an example of the Prairie Style remain largely intact.

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)

ARCHITECTURE**Period of Significance**

1918

Significant Dates

1918

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Claude & Starck

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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**ISLAND WOOLEN COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING
Baraboo, Sauk County, WI**

SIGNIFICANCE - ISLAND WOOLEN COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING

The Island Woolen Company Office Building in Baraboo, Wisconsin is locally significant under Criterion C as an excellent example of the Prairie School style of architecture.

Built in 1917-1918 and finished during the following years, the Island Woolen Company Office Building was designed in the Prairie School style by the highly-regarded architectural firm of Claude & Starck of Madison, Wisconsin. It is one of the few commercial or industrial buildings built in the Prairie School style.

Louis Ward Claude, a native of the Baraboo area, was a life-long friend of Island Woolen Company Vice President, William Henry McFetridge. Claude's architectural firm of Claude & Starck was the natural choice for the design and construction of the office building for the Island Woolen Company. Both McFetridge and Claude had attended the University of Wisconsin and studied under Allan Darst Conover, and both had apprenticed in the Chicago firm of Adler and Sullivan under the supervision of Frank Lloyd Wright, the chief draftsman for the firm. Claude and McFetridge's levels of interest and attention to detail and comprehensive planning reflected their progressive training in both Conover's and Sullivan's offices.

The period of significance corresponds with the building's completion date – 1918.

ISLAND WOOLEN COMPANY

The McFetridge family's history in Wisconsin and the woolen manufacturing business goes back to 1858, when Will McFetridge's grandfather, John McFetridge, and his sons, James Albert (Will's father) and Edward Clinton McFetridge moved to Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. James and Edward established a woolen mill business in Beaver Dam named the McFetridge Company.

In 1875, James A. McFetridge sold his interest in the Beaver Dam woolen mill to his brother E.C. McFetridge and relocated with his family to Baraboo, where there was greater waterpower in the Baraboo River. J.A. McFetridge bought into an existing woolen mill business, the Island Woolen Mill, when he purchased a 3/8th share of the company. The remaining 5/8th share was owned by partner Henry Rich. This waterpower was the oldest on the Baraboo River. It had first been harnessed in 1846 when a dam was built at the western edge of an oxbow, and a 500-foot-long raceway was cut across it running nearly east, which created an island, thus the name used years later for the Island Woolen Company.² This was just beyond the western edge of Baraboo, near the unincorporated Village of Lyons. A sawmill had first been built, but in 1858, a woolen mill was erected by M.J.

² Dewel, pp.83-84.

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Drown.³ The early mill was typical of the hand-built settlement-era industries established on Wisconsin rivers near developing urban centers.

James A. McFetridge died unexpectedly in 1893 and his sons, William Henry and Edward Parker McFetridge, reluctantly took over management of the woolen mill.⁴ Will was no longer at the Adler & Sullivan office, due to the lay-offs during the recession of 1893, and had previously enrolled in the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Edward, or E.P., was a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin (1892) and was at the time a clerk at the Bank of Baraboo; he took on the principal management of the operation, and served as the company's president. Will served in a secondary capacity as vice president of the company and oversaw sales, contract management and an electrical generation business. Will also oversaw the construction projects of the mill's buildings and landscaping.⁵

After operating in partnership with Henry Rich for several years, the business still did not hold a strong place in the McFetridges' lives. They made a living from it, but competition from eastern mills caused the business to decline. In 1899, the business was closed for about a year and Henry Rich moved from Baraboo. In 1900, the McFetridge brothers reopened with a small line of woolen goods, and early in 1901, Rich sold them his 5/8th share and deed to the property for \$10,000. The family established The McFetridge Company, though that name was not publicly used. The five family members who were equal shareholders in the company were James A. McFetridge's wife Martha, their two daughters -- Georgiana and Mary Ella Burgess of Illinois, and the two sons -- Will and E.P. Thus the company was begun anew and growth was destined to occur during the following decades.⁶

At best, the woolen milling business was seasonal, and the industry fluctuated with the eccentricities of demand, changing needs and tastes, and regional competition. E.P. McFetridge noted in an article published in 1946 that during his tenure that the mill had grown from 17 looms in 1889 to 100 in 1946. The early plant was tripled in size by 1918, largely due to demands related to wartime contracts. The plant produced a range of products, from coat, jacket and suit fabrics to automobile upholstery fabrics for the leading manufacturers including Ford, Chrysler, Hudson, Studebaker and Packard.⁷ The company produced overcoat fabrics for the army at various times, but in war time, their orders for woolen goods for domestic products increased to a significant part due to the demands on other woolen mills which were pressed to produce government orders exclusively.⁸

³ The Evening News, "New Power House at Woolen Mill." Oct. 13, 1911. And, Dewell, pp.83-84.

⁴ Oshkosh Daily Northwestern, July 8, 1893.

⁵ Goc, p. 64.

⁶ McFetridge, E. P., Untitled history of the Island Woolen Company, October 9, 1920.

⁷ "Woolen Mill In Operation Here 83 Years, 1946, unsourced and pencil-dated October 5, 1935. Clippings in file of Wisconsin Historical Society Archives' files for Island Woolen Company.

⁸ Baraboo Republic. "Island Woolen Company Begins New Structure." April 19, 1917. p.10.

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In the early 1920s, the woolen business faltered, again, due to changing tastes and competition from eastern mills.⁹ During the 1930s, the mill was closed intermittently, yet managed to pick up again and stay competitive and in business.

Following World War II, the government orders ceased and the mill became relatively inactive. In 1949, Edward closed the mill following years of labor union unrest and slumping sales.¹⁰ In April 1951, Edward P. McFetridge sold the mill to Chicago-based industrialists, the Makler Brothers. The Island Woolen Company was then closed. It had been the largest employer in Baraboo and had been one of the largest woolen mills west of Philadelphia.¹¹ Another company was briefly opened within the facility, but it was short-lived.

WILL HENRY McFETRIDGE

William Henry McFetridge, was born in Beaver Dam on April 7, 1869, son of James Albert and Martha Aiken McFetridge. He attended public school in Baraboo following the family's move from Beaver Dam in 1875.

As a young man, he attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison in 1888 and 1889 as a special student under Professor Alan Darst Conover in Civil Engineering and also enrolled in military training courses where he attained the rank of a lieutenant.¹² He was at the University concurrently with his good friend Louis Ward Claude who was also enrolled in Special Courses in Engineering under Conover. Professor Conover taught courses on graphic statics, the theory of structures, sanitary engineering, framed structures, and building construction with design labs.

Frank Lloyd Wright also made a brief appearance as an engineering student, and had worked as an employee in the architectural firm of Conover & Porter during the previous year. McFetridge graduated from the University in 1890.

Following their varied stays at the University, Wright, Claude and McFetridge independently went on to apprentice with prominent Chicago architectural firms, including Adler & Sullivan. McFetridge noted that it was there in his work as a draftsman that he learned more about architecture in his brief discussions with his supervisor, Frank Lloyd Wright, than through any other experiences. Will was particularly proud that he contributed to the drawings of the Transportation Building at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. His career in architecture was cut short, however, in the

⁹ Correspondences, Will McFetridge files, Island Woolen Co. archives.

¹⁰ Goc, p.127.

¹¹ Wisconsin State Journal, "Historic Baraboo Woolen Mill Sold" April 30, 1951. Section 2, page 1.

¹² Catalogue of the University of Wisconsin, 1888-1889, Cramer, Aikens & Cramer: Milwaukee, Wisconsin. 1889. p. 21.

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summer of 1893, when his father died, and he returned to Baraboo to help run the family-owned woolen mill with his brother E.P. McFetridge.¹³

Will Henry married Blanche Budd, sister of Britton I. Budd, who later became president of the Chicago Rapid Transit Company.¹⁴ They raised four children -- Mary Ella, Will Henry, Edward Parker and Georgiana, and for many years shared the family home at 515 W. 4th Avenue in Baraboo with Will's mother.

Will McFetridge's personal correspondence prior to 1918 is not part of the archives, so little is known of the details of his life other than the public record.

In the summer of 1917, in the midst of several expansions of the mill facilities including the new office and employees building and the work of soliciting recruits for WWI, Will McFetridge took ill and retreated from some of the work of the company. The office building became a pet project and he addressed the finishing details and landscape plantings at various intervals over the following years.

Will's health suffered from the stress of overseeing the plant expansion, sales, and volunteering to recruit soldiers for the war. With the encouragement of his wife, he bought a home in San Diego in 1918, and lived there increasingly over the following years. He did spend extended periods of time in Baraboo, however, tending to the finishing of the office from 1922 through 1926.

Following a surgery at Mayo Clinic, Will McFetridge died unexpectedly on December 29, 1926. Following Will's death, his brother E.P. continued to operate the Island Woolen Mill until it closed after World War II.

Will McFetridge's Design Collaborations for the Office Building and Plant

The construction of the new office building was begun in September 1917, and the building was largely completed in early 1918. Though the company made use of the employee break rooms, reading room and nursing station on the second floor of the new office building, they were somewhat slower to move into and finish the company offices on the first floor. The lighting and painting, in particular, were details that Will McFetridge tended to in increments over the following several years.

McFetridge enjoyed garnering expert opinions, recommendations and services from some of the top men in their fields in the design and detailing of the office building, as well as other components of the mill complex. McFetridge seemed to enjoy consulting the best designers no matter how large or small the task and savored the relationship of client and consultant.

¹³ Correspondence with James Delacour, grandson of Will McFetridge. Tipler notes.

¹⁴ Britton I. Budd (1871-1965). Chicago "L".org. <http://www.chicago-l.org/figures/budd/index.html>. Accessed March 15, 2010.

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ISLAND WOOLEN COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING
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Will McFetridge consulted Frank Lloyd Wright on at least a couple occasions about projects at the mill complex. It is believed that when the Island Woolen Company dam washed out in 1913, Will consulted Wright on the design for the dam and quite possibly on the design of observation decks, which were built at both ends of the dam. However, the resulting work suggests that Wright was not directly involved. The awkward proportions, lack of Wrightian detail, and structural chains of the canopies, leads one to believe that if Wright had been consulted, it was merely in a conceptual manner. No records that link Wright to the structures have yet been found. The observation decks were attributed by local newspaper stories beginning in the 1970s and again in the 1990s. The attributions were picked up by Wright historian William Storrer.¹⁵ Unfortunately, the Island Woolen Company's contract records prior to 1918 are few in the Island Woolen Company archives.¹⁶ Will McFetridge did not make direct references to the design of the observation decks in later years (1918 and later) in his correspondences with Wright and in his writings, for which there are excellent records.

McFetridge's friendship with Wright is illustrated by a story that portrays McFetridge's admiration and support of Wright. Shortly after the fire at Wright's home, Taliesen, on April 22, 1925, McFetridge wrote about it and Wright in the April 25, 1925 issue of Wool Nubs, the Island Woolen Company's weekly newsletter. The article praised Wright's discerning taste in his collection of Japanese prints and artwork. Sometime during the following year, when Wright was struggling with the expenses of rebuilding Taliesen and facing foreclosure, McFetridge was invited to visit Wright at Taliesen. An agreement was made, whereupon a loan of \$5,000 was made to Wright in exchange for 433 Japanese prints. McFetridge may have realized that he would never see the money repaid, but his admiration for Wright directed his trust. McFetridge also made an effort, as late as October 1926 to help sell some pieces of Wright's art collection, though he was unable to raise sufficient funds to get a significant part of the collection out of the hands of the Bank of Wisconsin, which was holding it as collateral.

McFetridge died at the end of 1926, and Wright never repaid the loan with interest as requested by Blanche McFetridge. Edward P. McFetridge rejected Wright's concept of jointly selling the prints held by the McFetridges.¹⁷ The prints were held in a bank vault for safe keeping and were not taken out of storage until the deaths of both Edward P. McFetridge (1963) and Blanche McFetridge (1966). The prints were then sold at a Parke-Bernet Galleries auction in late November 1969, in New York. The sale provided several museums with important additions to their collections.

Regarding the finishing of the woolen mill office building, McFetridge worked tirelessly on such details as lighting, wood stains and paint finishes, perhaps to a fault. The walls were not fully painted, particularly in the offices, until Will had contacted numerous consultants, including well-known artists

¹⁵ Storrer, William Allin. p.139.

¹⁶ Island Woolen Company Collection, MSS 38, Wisconsin Historical Society Archives.

¹⁷ Meech, p.204-206.

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and professionals in painting and specialty finishes. Often not satisfied with their advice, Will supervised the painting of the walls, and later painted many of the walls himself.

Among those who McFetridge approached for help was Allen E. Philbrick, a well-known muralist and painting instructor at the Art Institute of Chicago. McFetridge made his own introduction to him upon recommendation of a fellow Chicagoan, to garner design ideas and painting schemes for murals in the office building in September 1922. Known in Chicago circles, Philbrick had painted murals in Louis Sullivan's People's Savings Bank of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, completed in 1912. Following several correspondences with Philbrick and a couple visits regarding paint finishing and decorating schemes, McFetridge retreated from a mural decoration to a plan for multi-toned and rag-roll-painted walls. After working with specialty, then general painters, no one was easily able to satisfy McFetridge's vision, and he experimented with applications of his own.

The color scheme that McFetridge developed was described in detail in his letter to Thomas O'Shaughnessy, Chicago painting instructor and Chicago Daily News staffer, while discussing the setting for custom designed lighting, yet to be specified:

The wood work is all heavy oak in a wax finish brown gray stain, very rich and effective. The general office has been decorated, the main effect being a luminous, moving, rich yellow field, graduated into darker tones of burnt orange and sienna reds where it meets the oak trim. Other rooms will be somewhat similarly decorated, keeping the walls rather high keyed but the blended borders next to the dark oak in lower toned colors. Some will be in silver greens and blues. The effect of the whole will be kept simple and harmonious and dignified but we are aiming at richness with plenty of strong color.¹⁸

According to his letters to Louis Claude and other friends, McFetridge continued working on his customized wall painting intermittently into 1924.¹⁹

In April 1919, E.P. and Will McFetridge proceeded to procure a design for wall sconce lighting fixtures to flank the exterior of the entrance. Louis Claude negotiated a full-scale drawing by Giannini & Hilgart, premier leaded art glass and lighting manufacturers in Chicago, who designed windows and lighting shades for many Prairie School and Chicago architecture firms. Giannini & Hilgart quoted a price of \$35 per fixture.²⁰ The McFetridges hedged a bit on the price, and on the ability to light the

¹⁸ W.H. McFetridge letter to Thomas A. O'Shaughnessy, Sept. 21, 1922.

¹⁹ W.H. McFetridge letter to Louis W. Claude, April 18, 1924. Letter to J.B. Ramsay, president of the French Battery Co., Madison, Sept 7, 1925: "Louie Claude did the building while I did most of the interior decorating."

²⁰ W.H. and E. P. McFetridge's correspondence, April through June 1919, Wisconsin Historical Society Archives. On the history and clients of Giannini and Hilgart of Chicago, refer to The Decorative Designs of Frank Lloyd Wright, David A. Hanks, p.203.

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ISLAND WOOLEN COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING
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entrance adequately, but weeks later ordered them and they were installed, as seen in a company staff photo, circa 1920.

The interior lighting was seemingly unresolved, despite numerous correspondences from several companies, including many lighting descriptions and specifications, estimates, and samples, which were tested by hanging them for months or even years. McFetridge may never have resolved the satisfactory lighting of the offices before his health required him to spend more time at his San Diego home. In spite of his indecision on the office, he had quickly resolved the lighting of the employees' break rooms and reading room on the second floor with simple schoolhouse-type globes.

The ceramic tile in the entrance foyer and the terrazzo flooring in the office building were installed by U.F. Durner, of Milwaukee, a company specialized in art mosaic and terrazzo.²¹ Both McFetridge and Claude saw flaws in the broad spacing of their installation, though no changes were made.

ARCHITECTURE

Construction of the Island Woolen Company Office Building began in 1917, toward the end of a several-year expansion of the mill facility, and was opened in 1918. It was noted in an August 30, 1917 newspaper article that it was to be "a modern structure in every way." The ground floor was to be used for administrative offices, and the second floor was to be used for an employee lunchroom, reading room, and a nursing station. The lower level served as a garage and storage space.²² The ground-floor company office paints and lighting were not completely finished at that time; however, it was put into use. In fits and starts over the following years, Will McFetridge took on the paint finishes and lighting details of the office interior and the selection of exterior lighting fixtures to flank the front entrance.

LOUIS WARD CLAUDE, ARCHITECT

Louis Ward Claude, as a classmate and life-long friend of Will McFetridge, shared interactions with him at many levels -- as a friend, as a co-worker, and as his architect. Even their family burial plots adjoined on a small hill within the Walnut Hill Cemetery, with similar large rough-hewn locally-quarried granite stones as monuments.

Louis W. Claude was born in 1868 to Louis J. Claude, who emigrated from England, and Elvira Ward Claude, who was from New York State. Louis W. Claude was born and raised near Baraboo on the

²¹ Island Woolen Co. Coll., Edward P. McFetridge correspondence, Wisconsin Historical Society Archives, Box 61. Urban F. Durner letters.

²² Baraboo Republic, "Office Building Island Woolen Co." August 30, 1917, p.10.

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ISLAND WOOLEN COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING
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family homestead that adjoined Devil's Lake. The family house, called Eagle Crag (no longer extant), had been built by his father Louis James Claude, an immigrant from the Lake District in Northwestern England, near the village of Ambleside, at the north end of Lake Windermere in Cumbria. Claude may have chosen the name Eagle Crag because after the well-known land feature, a rocky mount, located about 7 kilometers or four miles to the northwest of Ambleside. Louis J. Claude was educated as a civil engineer, and after working in India and Kentucky, Claude came north to escape the political environment surrounding the slavery issue and settled on the land at Devil's Lake in the spring of 1857. No doubt, it reminded him of Lake Windermere in England. He designed and built a Gothic Revival or "English styled" house, which was similar in design to styles published and promoted by the American architect Andrew Jackson Downing. He fitted it with hand-carved wood ornamentation, and hand-built furnishings.²³ This was the environment in which young Louis Ward Claude and his sister Louise Claude were raised. Seasonally, Louis W. Claude spent time at the homestead. Following his retirement from architecture and the death of his wife, he spent more time at Eagle Crag, until his death on August 10, 1951.

Claude was educated in the public schools in Baraboo. It is not known how he and McFetridge learned about architecture and Professor Allan D. Conover's program in building engineering for special students at the University of Wisconsin. It is possible that they were alerted to Conover's advertising and trips to outlying communities to secure commissions in 1887. Or, perhaps, there was a construction project in Baraboo that caught their attention. Conover & Porter designed several known buildings in Baraboo in the 1890s, including the City Hall, the Sauk County jail, and Trinity Episcopal Church.²⁴ They also designed the YWCA and the Second Ward School.²⁵ The firm may have had earlier commissions, which are yet unknown. If the young men had the opportunity to meet Conover, they may have received an encouraging word on a career in architecture.

Claude attended the University of Wisconsin as a special student in Civil Engineering under Professor Conover, from 1887 through 1889.²⁶ Concurrently, he worked in the firm of Conover & Porter, architects, and left their employ in December 1889.²⁷

In 1890, Louis W. Claude went to work in the Chicago architectural firm of Burnham & Root, which was in the early stages of planning and supervising the construction of the Chicago World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. After a short time there, he joined Will McFetridge in apprenticing in

²³ Lange, p. 9.

²⁴ *Sauk County Democrat*, Baraboo, Wisconsin: June 9, 1892. Conover in Baraboo to receive bids for the City Hall. *Oshkosh Daily Northwestern*. "City's Architects" Oshkosh, Wisconsin: June 23, 1893. p.5. Article on Conover & Porter.

²⁵ Conover and Porter buildings list provided by Paul Wolter, Sauk County Historical Society.

²⁶ *Catalogue of the University of Wisconsin, 1888-1889*, Cramer, Aikens & Cramer: Milwaukee and Madison, Wisconsin. 1889. p. 25. *Catalogue of the University of Wisconsin, 1889-1890*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Cramer, Aikens & Cramer, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. 1890. p.21.

²⁷ Cass, Betty. Madison Day-by-Day. *Wisconsin State Journal*. Madison, Wisconsin: January 14, 1942. p. 13.

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the architectural office of Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan in Chicago, under the direction of Sullivan's chief draftsman, Frank Lloyd Wright, another veteran of Conover's engineering instruction and Conover & Porter's architectural firm.²⁸ Claude noted that he laid out the first plans the first Transportation Building for the World's Columbian Exposition.²⁹ Other Adler and Sullivan buildings on the drawing boards in the office during Claude and McFetridge's employment included the Getty Tomb, the Shiller Building, the Charnley House, all in Chicago, and the Wainwright Building in St. Louis.

It is not known whether Conover may have assisted the introduction for his students, Wright, Claude, and McFetridge, which led to their apprenticeships in Adler & Sullivan's office. Undoubtedly, Conover would have known his peer in his field of engineering, Dankmar Adler, senior partner and engineer of the architectural firm of Adler & Sullivan, of Chicago. Since both Conover and Adler were well known for their engineering knowledge and abilities, it is likely that they were familiar with each other's work. Conover may well have assisted the introduction to Adler for his students, Wright, Claude, and McFetridge, which led to their apprenticeship in Adler & Sullivan's office.

Claude remained at Adler & Sullivan's office until November 1891 and then went on to work with Schlacks & Ottenheimer, architects, both of whom had been apprentices at Adler & Sullivan.³⁰ In 1895, Claude opened an architectural practice in Madison, and the following year partnered with Edward F. Starck, in Claude & Starck. It is not known how they knew each other before then, though they both had worked for prominent Chicago architectural firms. According to a Claude & Starck biographer, Gordon Orr, Claude was "reputed to have been most responsible for the design and direction of the firm."³¹ Claude was the member of the firm who always was reported in newspapers and interviews.

Edward Starck, Architect

Edward F. Starck was born in Milwaukee in 1868. When he was ten years old, his family moved to Madison and his father became a builder and operated a planing mill. That business was the predecessor to the Findorff Construction Company, which is today a large construction firm. Young Edward Starck had apprenticed with the prominent architects David R. Jones of Madison, E.T. Mix of Milwaukee, and Handy and Cady of Chicago before joining Claude in a partnership in Madison in

²⁸ Cass, Betty. Madison Day-by-Day. Wisconsin State Journal. Madison, Wisconsin: January 14, 1942. p. 13.

²⁹ Wisconsin State Journal, August 18, 1899.

³⁰ Rankin, p.22-26, 43.

³¹ Orr, Gordon Jr., FAIA. "Louis W. Claude: Madison Architect of the Prairie School", The Prairie School Review. Vol. XIV Chicago: Prairie Avenue Bookshop, 1981. p. 6.

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1896.³² Starck's family and work connections likely led to several of the early commissions that their partnership attained in its earliest years. Starck was a silent partner, who avoided the press and did not participate in the business correspondence, so his written record is lean.

Claude & Starck, Architects

Claude & Starck began their partnership in Madison in 1896 and, over the course of their 32 year partnership, designed hundreds of buildings, including nearly 40 libraries in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, and Washington, many schools, public buildings, banks, factories, and scores of residences. They became proficient in Tudor, Gothic, Neo-Classical, and Prairie School styles of architecture. Throughout most of their partnership, their office in Madison was in the Badger Block, on S. Carroll Street on the Capitol Square, an early commercial building of their own design. It was there that the Island Woolen Company Office Building plans were drawn. The partnership lasted until September 1927, when Louis Claude left the firm and moved his office next door to the Badger Block Annex. His practice was very limited for several years and, in early 1942, he moved his practice to his home at 851 E. Gorham Street, Madison. He closed his business just a few years later, and spent much of his time at the family home at Devil's Lake where he died at age 82, on August 10, 1951.

In 1927, following the end of the partnership, Edward Starck retained the office and partnered with his chief draftsman, Hubert A. Schneider.³³

Claude & Starck and the Island Woolen Company Buildings

In 1911, E.P. and Will McFetridge began a several-year-long expansion program for the mill with the construction of a new power plant, the first building for Island Woolen Company designed by Claude & Starck.³⁴ It was a utilitarian one-story building of concrete and steel, built to permit a vertical expansion at a later date.

The next project entailed building a new dam in 1913, which was forced by a washout of the old one on the west side of the oxbow of the Baraboo River. Frank Lloyd Wright, McFetridge's former supervisor at the Adler & Sullivan offices, was probably consulted and may have offered some conceptual ideas for the dam and adjacent landscape enhancements. What resulted was a dam without distinction, however, adjoining it on either side were observation decks -- simple concrete shaded pergolas at the river's edge. None-the-less, these added the first artistic and scenic elements to the

³² Rankin, p. 218.

³³ Capital Times, Madison, Wisconsin, Dec. 04, 1929. p.12.

³⁴ The Evening News, "New Power House at Woolen Mill." Oct. 13, 1911.

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Island Woolen Company complex. No documents exist to prove the participation of Wright or any other designer or architect on the dam and its observation decks and only legends have survived the years. Photos indicate that the pergolas had a lack of design interest that would have been entailed in a Wright or Claude design.³⁵

In 1915, the manufacturing capacity of the mill was increased with a three-story vertical addition above the power plant designed in a utilitarian industrial motif. Claude was likely consulted, though records from that period are sparse. It marked the beginning of a significant expansion program for the mill complex. Between 1915 and 1917, the company proceeded to expand its campus of buildings by a third.³⁶ New factory buildings were needed along with a new building to serve as offices and for employees. In April of 1917, the additions to the plant were projected to cost \$75,000, and the expanded facility would accommodate about 225 employees to run the mill.³⁷ Even the old small one-story office building was inadequate.

For the new office building, Will McFetridge sought the design acumen of Louis Claude for whom he held high regard. Claude & Starck was contracted for the design and construction of the office building for the Island Woolen Company, a building for which McFetridge envisioned a stylistic statement.

The building is a flat-roofed rectangular building in the Prairie School style, with no projecting cornice, and a colonnade of pilasters alternating with recessed vertical planes in which grouped windows provide a strong horizontal statement. This strong form and pattern had previously been developed in 1915 by Claude for the school building designed for Madison, Wisconsin's District 2 (Lincoln School), on the 700 block of East Gorham Street, and concurrently for the Lincoln Junior High School in Monroe, Wisconsin (demolished). Though these schools were richly ornamented with exuberant flourishes in terra cotta, the more conservative post-war times and the cost-conscious McFetridges undoubtedly called for reserved and less expensive detailing for their Prairie School-styled office building. Thus, the simply detailed column capitals and trims were of "cast stone", made of a fine-grain light-colored stone and mortar. The brick's sand color was similar for both the Madison Lincoln School and the Island Woolen Company office building.

The Island Woolen Company Office Building was a commodious, yet practical building type, developed for maximizing natural lighting, and useful for office and employee functions of reading, writing and dining. Though Claude developed this building prototype for school use, it was easily adapted for office use.

³⁵ Conversation with John O. Holzhuter, January 14, 2010.

³⁶ Baraboo Daily Republic. "Island Woolen Mill Build Big Addition." Baraboo, Wisconsin: Sept. 16, 1915.

³⁷ Baraboo Republic. "Island Woolen Company Begins New Structure." April 19, 1917. p. 10.

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The simplified, low-cost details developed for the exterior of the Island Woolen Company office building were employed in several schools over the following years. Claude & Starck's school building prototype was employed several times with variation over the following years: the Mount Horeb High and Grade School (1917), the Argyle High and Grade School (1920), Evansville Grade School (1921), Green County Normal Training School in Monroe (1921), and the Baraboo High School (1927).

The most notable application of the Island Woolen Company office building prototype applied to an office building was the Lancaster Municipal Building (1919-1922). The fenestration, proportions of details of the north wing of the building, and material colors bear great similarity to the Baraboo building.

Claude & Starck Buildings in Baraboo

Some of Louis Claude's commissions were from among his friends and neighbors in Baraboo and Devil's Lake. During the 1890s, when Louis W. Claude's career took him from one architectural firm to the other in Chicago and Madison, he maintained his connections and friendships in his hometown area.

Claude's first-known commission was a house in 1892 for William H. Hopkins, owner of the gas company. It was to be located at 4th Avenue and West Street in Baraboo, though appears to not have been built, since Hopkins had a change in plans.³⁸ Claude designed several residences in Baraboo, Madison, and other communities over the years for which the records are obscure, though there are several that have signature design features in houses known to be by Louis Claude or Claude & Starck. Some of their signature features from the early houses include octagonal bay windows, unadorned siding, peaked or iconic dormers, steep and broken roof pitches, and later, broad windows; as well as, Gothic-styled Queen Anne details in the doors, interior paneling, fireplaces, porches and oriel window panels.³⁹

Claude & Starck designed buildings for two of the other major landholders of Devil's Lake properties. They were the Kirkland Summer Cottage on Devil's Lake for Mrs. S.E. Kirk, in 1905⁴⁰ (demolished in

³⁸ Sauk County Democrat, Baraboo, Wisconsin: June 2, 1892. Note from Paul Wolter regarding that the proposed location and building differed from that described in the news account of the project, yet to be built.

³⁹ A list of Claude and Starck designed buildings and proposed projects was created by Katherine Rankin, City of Madison Planner in 1995. It is partly based on a list of Claude and Starck drawings in the Northwestern Architectural Archives in Minneapolis at the University of Minnesota, some of which are Baraboo buildings. Refer to Appendix: List of Louis Claude Commissions.

⁴⁰ Northwestern Architectural Archives, Plans for a Summer Cottage for Mrs. Kirk, Claude & Starck, 1905.

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1946),⁴¹ and a house for Senator William Vilas for his daughter and son-in-law L.M. Hanks, adjoining Vilas's home in Madison at 525 Wisconsin Avenue.⁴² The firm had other commissions with the Vilas family. They also designed a house for Dr. Charles H. Vilas on Prospect Place in 1909, and the Bird House and Aquarium in Henry Vilas Zoo in Vilas Park in 1914, both in Madison.⁴³

Perhaps the most important commission for Claude & Starck was the Carnegie Library in Baraboo, built in 1903, just two blocks from the McFetridge home on 4th Avenue. A Neo-Georgian styled building, it was the first of nearly forty libraries that the firm designed. Claude was comfortable in executing designs in several styles, even mixing them between interior and exterior designs, and sometimes, from room to room in some houses. Claude appeared to favor Tudor with some elements of Gothic detail, suggesting his history in the family home Eagle Crag, designed by his father. No two commissions were known to be identical.

The last and most prominent building in Baraboo by Claude & Starck was the High School, designed in the Prairie School style and built between 1927 and 1929, adjoining the old high school just two blocks southeast of the courthouse square. The school was a variation of the two Lincoln schools, both designed in 1915 for Madison and Monroe. The basic appearance was similar, though the materials in the Baraboo High School are of warmly-and-richly-colored brick and terra cotta. The Baraboo school features exuberant ornate terra entryways on the north and south ends of the building, with pairs of lions presumably guarding and emboldening education. The paired guardian lions idea was likely borrowed from Louis Sullivan, as well as historic and ancient sources. It is presently (2010) used as the Baraboo Municipal Building.

Prairie School Architecture

The Prairie School style of architecture was born out of the Chicago School movement in the 1890s and early 1900s. It was based on principles, promoted by Frank Lloyd Wright and others, which embraced organic methods of design – based on function and utility rather than the formality of previous standards. As it developed, the style evolved to embrace an aesthetic, which is often referred to as a marriage between indoors and outdoors, and incorporated natural materials and colors with an emphasis on horizontal expressions in form and detail. Horizontality was embodied in banded or grouped windows, as is the case with the Island Woolen Company building, raked mortar joints and broad overhanging eaves. These characteristics were generally found in the residences of the style. The public buildings such as schools, municipal buildings, banks and office buildings, though more rare in the genre, often had characteristics also found in the buildings of the Viennese Secessionist

⁴¹ The former Kirkland Hotel building was demolished by the State in 1947, the last of the hotels on the lake. Lange, p.18.

⁴² New North. "Want Devil's Lake for Park." Rhinelander, Wisconsin: Nov. 08, 1906. p. 6.

⁴³ Rankin, pp.27, 31, 35.

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movement. These buildings often featured simplified boxy masses and forms, simple cornices without overhangs, grouped and deeply-set windows, a pronounced entrance, and restrained ornamental surface decoration, which was often limited to the materials adjoining windows, doors and cornice and other architectural features. The Island Woolen Company Office Building exhibits these features.

SUMMARY

The Island Woolen Company Office Building is locally significant under Criterion C as an excellent example of the Prairie School style of architecture. Designed by the architectural firm of Claude & Starck of Madison, Wisconsin, the building was a concise modern expression of the style represented in a pragmatic design for an office building.

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APPENDIX

List of Louis Claude Commissions in Baraboo.

Note: *Asterisk denotes plans or drawings in the Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

- W. (William) H. (Hulbert) Hopkins House, 4th Avenue and West Street, 1892 (unbuilt?)⁴⁴
- Frank Herfort House, circa 1897.⁴⁵ (Herfort was a member of the local committee in charge of promotion of the park proposal in 1906 and a property owner on Devil's Lake.)
- Father Clifford House, 1900.
- Dr. G.T. Thuerer House, 1900. Dr. George T. Thuerer born Sept 1869, mayor 1911 and later. (Usher, Ellis Baker, Wisconsin: its story and biography, 1848-1913, Volume 6, p.1547)
- M.R. Davenport Cottage, 1903.
- Carnegie Library, 1903.
- Edward Lukow Store and Printing Office, 412 Oak Street, 1904.*
- Island Woolen Company power house, 1911.
- Island Woolen Company Offices Building, 1917.*
- First National Bank, 1926.*
- Baraboo High School, now the Baraboo Civic Center, with highly ornamental Sullivanesque terra cotta. 1927-1929.*
- Evenson, Mr. W. G., residence, 1937, additions, 1942, 1946*

Attribution:

- Jane Van Orden's Cottage, 541 4th Avenue. 1897. Attribution by the author.

⁴⁴ *Sauk County Democrat*, Baraboo, Wisconsin: June 2, 1892

⁴⁵ Date provided by Paul Wolter, Sauk County Historical Society.

ISLAND WOOLEN COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING

SAUK

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

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**Acres of Property** Less than one acre**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 277020 4816440
 Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
 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**

name/title Gary Tipler, Tipler & Associates
organization for the Sauk County Historical Society
street & number 807 Jenifer Street
city or town Madison

state WI

date 9-2-2010
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**ISLAND WOOLEN COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary corresponds to the current legal description: S.W.¼- S.W.¼ of Section 35, T12N, R6E City of Baraboo, Sauk County Wisconsin. Part of Tax Parcel #0231 City of Baraboo.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary is based on the legal description, as prescribed by the City of Baraboo in its release of the building to the Sauk County Historical Society. The former Island Woolen Company Office Building is near the southern edge of the relatively new Attridge Park of the City of Baraboo, which was created from the site of the old Island Woolen Company Mill. The office building is the only remaining element of the former mill compound.

ISLAND WOOLEN COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING

SAUK

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

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.)

name/title

organization

street & number

city or town

state

WI

date

telephone

zip code

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 Reduction Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section photos Page 1

ISLAND WOOLEN COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING
Baraboo, Sauk County, Wisconsin

PHOTOGRAPHS

Island Woolen Company Office Building
900 Second Avenue
Baraboo, Sauk County, WI

Photos by Gary Tipler, May 2009
Negatives on file at the Wisconsin Historical Society.
Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory No. AHI 91193.

- 1 of 9. Exterior, view looking North.
- 2 of 9. Exterior, West façade, looking East.
- 3 of 9. Exterior, view looking East.
- 4 of 9. Exterior, view looking Northwest from bridge.
- 5 of 9. Exterior, West elevation, main entrance looking Southeast.
- 6 of 9. Interior, main entrance, first floor, looking Southwest.
- 7 of 9. Interior, office lobby, view looking South, entrance on right.
- 8 of 9. Interior, second floor, large room from entrance hall looking South.
- 9 of 9. Interior, second floor, east side of large room looking North toward offices and hall.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Island Woolen Company Office Building
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Sauk

DATE RECEIVED: 7/08/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/03/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/18/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/23/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000559

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 8-18-4 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the
nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



1 OF 9 ISLAND WOOLLEN COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING
900 SECOND AVENUE
BARABOO, SAUK CO., WI



2 OF 9

ISLAND WOOLEN COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING

900 SECOND AVENUE

BARABOO, SAUK CO., WI



3 OF 9

ISLAND WOOLEN COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING

900 SECOND AVENUE

BARABOO, SAUK CO., WI



4 OF 9

ISLAND WOOLEN COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING

900 SECOND AVENUE

BARABOO, SAUK CO., WI



5 OF 9

ISLAND WOOLEN COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING
900 SECOND AVENUE
BARABOO, SAUK CO., WI



6 OF 9

ISLAND WOOLEN COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING

900 SECOND AVENUE

BARABOO, SAUK CO., WI



7 OF 9

ISLAND WOOLEN COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING
900 SECOND AVENUE
BARABOO, SAUK CO., WI



8 OF 9

ISLAND WOOLEN COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING

900 SECOND AVENUE

BARABOO, SAUK CO., WI

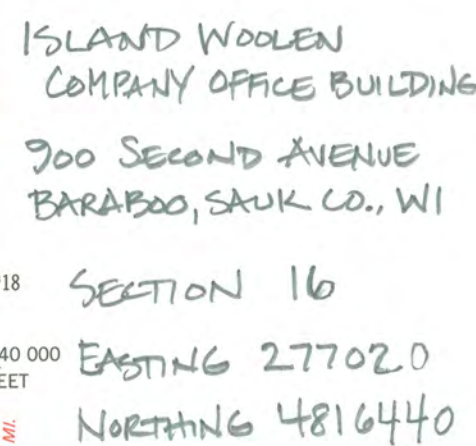


90F9

ISLAND WOOLEN COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING

900 SECOND AVENUE

BARABOO, SAUK CO., WI

1975
AMS 3070 IV NE—SERIES V861



Van Orden Mansion
1903

Sauk County Historical Society

INCORPORATED NOVEMBER 24, 1905.

OUR AIM: TO COLLECT, PRESERVE AND SHARE SAUK COUNTY HISTORY.



Sauk County History Center
1917

RECEIVED

SEP 27 2010

DIV HIST PRES

September 24, 2010

Daina Penkiunas
National Register Coordinator
Division of Historic Preservation – Local History
Wisconsin Historical Society
Room 305
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Daina,

This letter is to support the nomination of the Island Woolen Company Office Building in Baraboo for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Sauk County Historical Society is the proud owner of this historic building and will be honored if the building is added to the Register. The building is important on many levels as will be seen in the nomination. From its connection to Will McFetridge and the formation of Devils Lake State Park to its unique Prairie School architecture the building is a unique piece of Wisconsin and national history. We are very proud that the building was designed by the firm of Claude and Starck of Madison with Louis Claude being a Sauk County native. As you can see the building is proudly displayed on our letterhead above and will be used as the Sauk County History Center. We look forward to the nomination process and hope that the building will become another important listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Paul Wolter
President

SAUK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 651 ♦ Baraboo, WI 53913

608-356-1001 ♦ history@saukcountyhistory.org ♦ www.saukcountyhistory.org

State Historic Preservation Review Board
c/o

Mary D. Georgeff
Survey & Registration Associate
Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706

November 17, 2010

RECEIVED

NOV 22 2010

DIV HIST PRES

Dear Ms. Georgeff,

I am writing to support the nomination of the Island Woolen Company Office Building for a Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Designation or status. Of course, since my grandfather, William Henry McFetridge, and his very close friend, Louis W. Claude, were the principal parties in the design and building of the office I have a predisposition to view the building as historically significant. Otherwise, I am very fond of the building.

Specifically, my reasons for believing the building should be designated as a historic structure are the following:

The Island Woolen Company Office Building is the only remaining part of the woolen company itself and the company played a vital role in the commercial and employment activities of the Baraboo area.

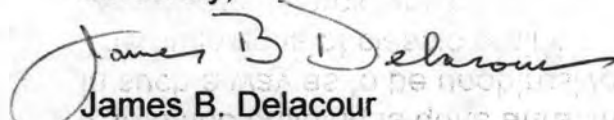
The office building is quite attractive with its simplicity combining to its detail in such a way as to be unobtrusive and formidable simultaneously.

The building is of classic prairie style design by the architectural firm of Claude and Starck which is of historic importance in the area and particularly for the Baraboo area.

The above are just a few of the reasons, amongst many, that the Island Woolen Company office building should be designated as historic.

Thank you so much for giving this letter of support consideration and for the work that you do to preserve the architectural beauty of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,



James B. Delacour
3919 North Stevens Street
Tacoma, Washington 98407
253-948-7072
jbdelacour@gmail.com

TAMMY BALDWIN

2ND DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

Website: tammybaldwin.house.gov

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

COMMITTEE ON
THE JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS AND
CIVIL LIBERTIES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 18, 2010

2446 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

TEL.: (202) 225-2906

FAX: (202) 225-6942

10 EAST DOTY STREET, SUITE 405

MADISON, WI 53703

TEL.: (608) 258-9800

FAX: (608) 258-9808

400 EAST GRAND AVENUE, SUITE 402

BELOIT, WI 53511

TEL.: (608) 362-2800

FAX: (608) 362-2838

RECEIVED

NOV 19 2010

DIV HIST PRES

Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board
c/o Daina Penkiunas
Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Dear Ms. Penkiunas,

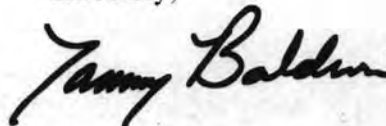
I am pleased to write in strong support of four Wisconsin Historic Places that are nominated to be placed on the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places in order to preserve their history and heritage for many generations and to enhance the tourism that accompanies such historic designations.

The nominees are:

- The Frey School at 8847 County Highway Y in the Town of Roxbury, Dane County
- The Island Woolen Company Office Building at 900 Second Avenue in Baraboo, Sauk County
- The Grove Street Historic District in Evansville, Rock County, and
- The South First Street Residential Historic District in Evansville, Rock County.

If entered into the Wisconsin State and National Registers, the heritage and the tradition of these properties will be celebrated for years to come. I appreciate your full consideration of these nominations and ask that you please keep Helen Forbeck in my Beloit office informed on the progress of the application process. She may be reached by facsimile at (608) 362-2838 or by email at Helen.Forbeck@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress

cc: Ellsworth Brown, Director

