


1 City, Village or Town: <b>Eau Claire</b>	County: <b>Eau Claire</b>	Surveyor: <b>M. Taylor</b>	Date: <b>11-9-81</b>
Street Address: <b>217 S. Farwell Street</b>		Legal Description: <b>Lots 6-7-8 Blk 20 Village of Eau Claire</b>	Acreage: <b>less than one acre</b>
Current Name & Use: <b>City Hall</b>		Current Owner: <b>City of Eau Claire, Stephen Atkins, city mgr.</b>	
Film Roll No. <b>EC 1P</b>			
Negative No. <b>28</b>			
Facade Orient <b>W</b>			
Special Features Not Visible In Photographs: UTM: zone 15 Easting: 618760 Northing: 4962930 USGS Eau Claire East Quadrangle 1:24,000 Interior visited? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		Current Owner's Address: <b>203 S. Farwell Street, Eau Claire</b>	

S. Farwell Street  
217

2 Original Name & Use: <b>preferred</b> <b>Eau Claire Public Library (ECMRA)</b>	Source <b>A</b>	Previous Owners	Dates	Uses	Source
Dates of Construction / Alteration <b>1903</b>	Source <b>A</b>				
Architect and/or Builder: <b>Patton &amp; Miller, Chicago</b>	Source <b>B</b>				

3 Architectural Significance

Represents work of a master  
 Possesses high artistic values  
 Represents a type, period, or method of construction  
 Is a visual landmark in the area  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  None

4 Historical Significance

Assoc. with lives of significant persons  
 Assoc. with significant historical events  
 Assoc. with development of a locality  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 None

Architectural Statement:

See continuation sheet.

Historical Statement:

See continuation sheet.

Plat Map #8

5 Sources of Information (Reference to Above)

**A** on building

**B** Eau Claire Weekly Telegram, April 2, 1903, p. 3.

**C** Withey, H.F. and E.R. 1970. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects Deceased, p. 460.

**D** Beloit, Wisconsin Multiple Resource Nomination

**E** History of Eau Claire County, 1914, p. 443.

**F** see continuation sheet

6 Representation in Previous Surveys

HABS  NAER  WIHP  NRHP  landmark  
 other: \_\_\_\_\_

7 Condition

excellent  good  fair  poor  ruins

8 District: \_\_\_\_\_

pivotal  contributing  non-contributing

initials: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

9 Opinion of National Register Eligibility

eligible  not eligible  unknown  
 national  state  local initials: *mt*

IP/28

EAU CLAIRE PUBLIC LIBRARY (217 S. Farwell Street)  
Intensive Survey Form - Continuation sheet (1)

ARCHITECTURAL STATEMENT:

Description: Prominently situated at the crest of a small hill and joined to the city hall by a glass curtain wall, the former public library is a rectangular block constructed of buff and blue Bedford limestone. A low hip roof covered with red tiles caps the two story structure which rests on a raised rusticated stone basement. Dominating the composition is a monumental tetrastyle portico in the Corinthian order. The portico, repeated on the facade by monumental pilasters, is crowned by a pediment that features a scultural element consisting of a wreath encircling an open book - an appropriate symbol for a library. The pediment as well as the building's cornice is outlined with block modillions. Framed within the portico is the main entrance identified by a projecting cornice supported by scroll-shaped brackets. Large rectangular window openings flank the doorway which is approached by a broad flight of stairs. The flanking windows like the three smaller openings on the second level are simply but boldly framed. To either side of the central portico area are three compound windows that refer to Richardson's commercial architecture. Organized as a single unit, the round arched and corresponding rectangular openings are separated by simple pilasters. Similar windows are located on the north and south facades. At the rear of the main block is a single story flat-roofed addition.

In 1978-79 the library was converted for use as a city office building. At that time the area connecting the two structures, the former library and the neighboring city hall, was completed. The glassed connection, containing new council chambers and additional office space, is a recessed element and, while not totally compatible with the classical structures, does not detract from their significance.

(1981 phot6 - 39/28)

Significance: The Eau Claire Public Library, constructed with funds provided by philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie, is the city's finest example of Neo-Classical architecture. Located adjacent to Eau Claire's city hall, an equally impressive Neo-Classical/Beaux Arts inspired structure erected in 1916 (city hall, 217 S. Farwell Street, 1P/27, is also being nominated), the library was designed by Chicago architects, Patton and Miller, who specialized in libraries, schools, and collegiate buildings. Within west central Wisconsin the distinguished stone structure provides an early illustration of the twentieth century style most commonly used for public buildings. It is also among the earliest Carnegie-endowed institutions in the state. The public library, which today houses city offices, was designated an Eau Claire landmark in 1976.

The Patton and Miller partnership was in existence from 1901 to 1912. Previous to that time, Normand Patton, a Hartford, Connecticut native, was a member of the firm Patton and Fisher, 1885 to 1896; and Patton, Fisher and Miller, 1896 to 1901. In Wisconsin Patton and Miller were responsible for several structures on the Beloit College Campus, including a Carnegie library, 1903-05 (C,D).

HISTORICAL STATEMENT:

Eau Claire's first library and reading room was established in 1875. It was located in a commercial block which also housed the city's post office. In 1894 the library moved to larger quarters in the Ingram Block (no longer extant) at the corner of E.

EAU CLAIRE PUBLIC LIBRARY (217 S. Farwell Street)  
Intensive Survey Form - Continuation sheet (2)

Grand Avenue and Farwell Street. Following a \$40,000 donation from Andrew Carnegie who during the years 1901 to 1915 financed sixty three libraries in Wisconsin, the Eau Claire Public Library was completed in 1903 (E,F). The early construction date places the Eau Claire structure among the first of the state's Carnegie libraries. The Kellogg Public Library (NRHP 1981) in Green Bay erected in 1901 is perhaps the earliest of the type.

Presently city offices occupy the library building.