

INTENSIVE SURVEY FORM Historic Preservation Division State Historical Society of Wisconsin

City, Village or Town: Wautoma	County: Waushara	Surveyor: D. Filipwoicz L. Garfield	Date: 9/81	Street Number
Street Address: 209 St. Marie Street		Legal Description: Original Plat, All of Block F	Acres: 1.5	
Current Name & Use: Waushara County Courthouse/ Waushara County Historical Museum		Current Owner: County of Waushara; Attn: Harold Prochnow, County Clerk		
Film Roll No.	Affix Contact Prints	Current Owner's Address: P. O. Box 160, Wautoma, WI 54982		
Negative No.		Special Features Not Visible In Photographs:		
Facade Orient.		Interior visited? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

2	Original Name & Use:	Source	Previous Owners	Dates	Uses	Source	Town
	Waushara County Courthouse/ Waushara Co. Sheriff's Residence & Jail	A/B					
Dates of Construction:		Source					Range
	Courthouse: 1928-29; 1978/Jail: 1908	A/B					
Architect and/or Builder:		Source					Section
	E. A. Stubenrauch, arch./J. P. Cullen and Son, contractor	A					

3	Architectural Significance	4	Historical Significance
	<input type="checkbox"/> Represents work of a master <input type="checkbox"/> Possesses high artistic values <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Represents a type, period, or method of construction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Is a visual landmark in the area <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> None.		<input type="checkbox"/> Assoc. with lives of significant persons <input type="checkbox"/> Assoc. with significant historical events <input type="checkbox"/> Assoc. with development of a locality <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None.

<p>Statement of Architectural Significance: Description: Monumental in scale and spirit, the Waushara County Courthouse is a robust NeoClassical structure dominated by a colossal Ionic portico with full entablature and massive parapet. Resting on a raised basement of poured concrete, the orange brick walls rise two stories, crowned with an attic recessed behind a limestone balustrade. The pale brick complements the smooth texture and light color of the Bedford limestone and enhances the quiet monumentality of the structure. But if essentially restrained, the building's classical mien is dramatically (over)</p>	<p>Statement of Historical Significance: Constructed in 1928-29, the Waushara County Courthouse was built on the site of the earlier courthouse which burned to the ground in the spring of 1928.^E Shortly after the fire, "two car loads" of officials travelled to Green Lake, Friendship, and Montello (which most impressed the delegation) to inspect courthouses in those cities before selecting the neo-classical design of Sheboygan architect E. A. Stubenrauch.^F Although some local laborers were employed during the construction, the project was under the supervision of J. P. Cullen and Son, Janesville contractors whose earlier work included Bascom Hall on the University of Wisconsin campus in Madison and the Janesville High School.^G Some critics suggested that the plans were too expensive, but the architect (over)</p>
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Sources of Information (Reference to Above)		6	District Classification	Map Code
Plaque on building.			District Name: _____	
Oshkosh Daily Northwestern, Nov. 11, 1979			<input type="checkbox"/> Pivotal <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Contributing	
Waushara County Argus, June 20, 1928 Vol. 70, No. 18, p. 1.			Initials: _____ Date: _____	
Waushara County Argus, August 1, 1929, Vol. 71, No. 24, p. 16.				
Waushara County Argus, May 2, 1928 Vol. 70, No. 11, p. 1. (cont.)				

7	Representation in Previous Surveys:	<input type="checkbox"/> HABS
	<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP <input type="checkbox"/> WRL <input type="checkbox"/> Local Landmark	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: WIHP	
8	Eligibility for the National Register	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eligible <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
	Initials: LG Date: 10/81	

Architectural Statement (cont.):

asserted in the imposing limestone portico which shelters the central pavilion. Sixty feet wide, the portico features four unfluted columns and paired corner pilasters which support an unembellished frieze and denticulated cornice. Surmounting the entablature, a paneled parapet bears the inscription "Waushara County Court House," its Roman lettering adding yet another classical conceit to the building. A short but broad flight of steps leads to the portico, and large double doors of plate glass, set within a stone frame with bracketed cornice, provide entry into the building. Five window bays wide, the central pavilion is divided by round-arched panels which rise two stories, within which round-headed windows at the second story provide illumination for the courtroom inside.

Although the rest of the facade lacks the exuberance of the portico, the monumental cornice is carried across the building, surmounted by a balustrade more delicately proportioned than the parapet. Below the cornice, shallow brick piers divided the facade into symmetrically arranged window bays. Porches extending off the north and south elevations echo in diminished scale the treatment of the front portico. A brick addition, built in 1978, extends off the rear of the building but does not impair the integrity of the main facade, whose original dimensions--50' x 114'--are still apparent and whose imposing classical detail still dominates the courthouse square.

The interior detail of the courthouse reflects less the grandeur than the practicality of the building. Terrazzo floors and plaster walls simulate more expensive materials. The interior plan is straightforward and functional, with the best detail reserved for the courtroom itself, where pedimented door frames, oak furnishings, and tall round-headed windows provide a dignified formality. Ceilings throughout the building have been lowered with the installation of acoustical tile.

In the southwest corner of the square, the sheriff's residence and jail, a red brick structure, rises two stories from a foundation of rusticated granite blocks and is crowned with a low-pitched hip roof with extended eaves. Cubic in proportion,

(continued)

Historical Statement (cont.):

convinced the Board that "none of the high grade materials should be changed." "We are not building for the present alone," Stubenrauch said, "but for 50 or 75 years in the future."^G "Nonetheless, the cost of construction did not exceed \$115,000 and Walter Owen, Associate Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, addressing the dedication day crowd of 3,000, proclaimed the courthouse a tribute to the "thrift, pride, and patriotism of Waushara County."^H

(The sheriff residence and jail was built in 1908 at a cost of about \$115,000).^B

Sources of Information (cont.):

- F Waushara County Argus, May 16, 1928, Vol. 70, No. 13, p. 1.
- G Waushara County Argus, August 8, 1928, Vol. 70, No. 26, p. 1.
- H Waushara County Argus, August 8, 1929, Vol. 71, No. 25, p. 1.



WAUSHARA COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Intensive Survey - Continuation Sheet

Architectural Statement (cont.):

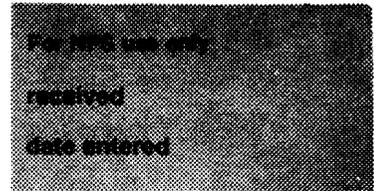
reflecting the "four square" arrangement favored in the early 20th century, the building is distinguished by loosely rendered colonial revival detail (and other eclectic classical motifs), including a broken scroll "pediment" which rises through the eave. Stone quoins of varying size, flat stone lintels, and a semicircular window with an exaggerated keystone in the "pediment" suggest the classicizing influence of the builder. But the free-spirited nature of the design is reflected in the curious stone pillars which support the front entry porch. Now used as the Waushara County Historical Museum, the building is divided between the sheriff's residence in the front portion--characterized by hardwood floors, oak trim (including an oak arch between the parlor and the hallway) and details like double sliding oak doors--and the jail which extends to the rear. Both buildings are situated on a spacious courthouse lawn, which contributes a dignified siting for the buildings.

Significance: An outstanding example of NeoClassical architecture in Waushara County, the Courthouse is distinguished by its monumental scale and colossal limestone portico which transforms a restrained design into an imposing edifice. Designed by Sheboygan architect E. A. Stubenrauch, in a manner he described as "Renaissance,"^C the building combines both the dignified repose and the assertive grandeur favored in the public buildings of the period, and is the most notable visual landmark in the city. At the time of the commission, Stubenrauch had designed a series of public buildings in the state, including the Berlin City Hall, the Dane County Tuberculosis Sanitorium, and the Sheboygan Junior High School.^D By contrast, the sheriff's residence and jail, built in 1908, is an excellent example of the penal architecture of the early twentieth century, domestic in scale and detail, providing a sharp contrast to its imposing neighbor to the north.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Item number Page

PROPERTY NAME Waushara County Courthouse

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REFERENCE NUMBER

W	I
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STATE

1	3	7
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COUNTY CODE

Correct name is Waushara County Courthouse, Waushara County Sheriff's Residence and Jail

2/13/86

SIGNED, SHPO OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

DATE