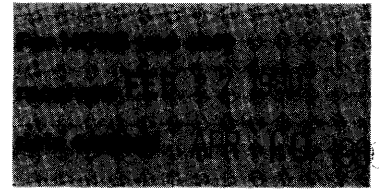


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Memorial Hall

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 72 Seventh Street ___ not for publication

city, town Racine ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Wisconsin code 55 county Racine code 101

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Commemorative</u>
				meeting place

4. Owner of Property

name City of Racine

street & number 730 Washington Avenue

city, town Racine ___ vicinity of state Wisconsin 53403

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds
Racine County Courthouse

street & number 730 Wisconsin Avenue

city, town Racine ___ vicinity of state Wisconsin 53403

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Racine Architectural Survey -
title Johnson, Johnson & Roy has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1974 ___ federal ___ state ___ county local

depository for survey records Racine Public Library

city, town Racine ___ vicinity of state Wisconsin 53403

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Memorial Hall is a rectangular NeoClassical building constructed of Indiana Limestone except for a small portion of the north end which is built of brick. The gable roof extending from the front pediment is covered with copper. The building measures 176' x 118' and is two stories high plus basement and sub-basement.

The south or main facade features a two-story raised portico which projects from the facade and gable end of the roof overhead. The entablature is supported by four Corinthian columns and two engaged pilasters behind. Three recessed doors provide access to the interior. The heavy cornice between the entablature and parapet is carried across the wall surface on the facade behind the portico, and around the east and west walls. A pair of stone eagles and a standing figure and crest decorate the center on the top of the portico. The west facade is punctuated by covered two-story windows alternating with seals commemorating the wars in which U. S. citizens have fought. Inscribed at the corners of the west facade are the names of famous battles. The east facade is composed of two bays to either side of a two-story colonnade of paired columns. (The north facade is of little interest as it abuts the Elks Club building to the north.)

A large, rectangular auditorium occupies most of the interior of the building. Permanent seating is provided by a tiered balcony over the doors at the southern end, opposed by a rectangular stage on the north. Denticulated friezes along the top of the ceramic-block east and west walls are inscribed with the names of American patriots; regularly-spaced at the second-story level underneath on the east are rectangular balconies with overhanging, semicircular grills, opposite tall multi-paned windows on the west. The ribs of the barrel-vaulted ceiling are accented by exposed light bulbs. A full-width lobby/foyer interfaces the auditorium and entrance. Decorative iron grills fill the overlights over the inner doors. Simple chandeliers are hung from the barrel-vaulted ceiling. The coursed cut-stone walls are accented by carved and raised classical motifs and decorative elements. Above the three auditorium doors is inscribed, "The Noblest Motive Is the Public Good." Offices occupy peripheral parts of the second floor and the basement. Of special note is the delicately designed formal suite of offices in the southeast corner of the first floor; the spacious reception salon with carved wood mantelpiece is a surprising inclusion in a building of such bold proportions.

Memorial Hall is located on the highest bank above Lake Michigan in Racine and thus occupies a prominent position in the city's skyline. The building is almost unaltered on the exterior, with the covering of the west windows being the only visible change.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/civic
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> humanitarianism
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1924-25¹ Builder/Architect Howard Van Doren Shaw²

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Memorial Hall was built in 1924-25 as a lasting memorial to the dead of World War I, although the building commemorates all earlier United States wars. Frequently used as a municipal auditorium and as a meeting place for patriotic organizations, the building is an important social landmark in Racine. Former United States Vice-President Thomas Riley Marshall delivered an address at the laying of the cornerstone on Memorial Day, 1924, testifying to the civic importance of the structure. In addition to having strong associative significance to the citizens of Racine as a memorial to its war dead, Memorial Hall is significant as an impressive NeoClassical design by a well-known and successful Mid-western architect of the early twentieth century, Howard Van Doren Shaw, of Chicago. The monument occupies a very prominent site in the urban landscape of the city of Racine, making it an important visual asset. Sited at the highest point above Lake Michigan in the city, it is a remnant of a proposed south side lakeshore development which was never completed.

Memorial Hall was designed by a leading Chicago architect, Howard Van Doren Shaw (1869-1926), F.A.I.A. Educated at Yale and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and having traveled extensively in Europe and the Orient, Shaw worked for the famous office of Jenney and Mundy before starting his own highly successful practice. In addition to numerous residences and estates in Lake Forest, Illinois, Shaw's important works include the R. R. Donnelley Printing House, Chicago; Market Square, Lake Forest; The Quadrangle Club of the University of Chicago; the Goodman Theater of the Art Institute of Chicago; and the Memorial Hall in Racine

¹ Racine Journal-News, March 13, 1923, p. 1, "Plans Ready for Memorial Building."
² Ibid.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Books:

Burckel, Nicolas C., Ed., Racine: Growth and Change in a Wisconsin County (Racine: Racine County Board of Supervisors, 1977)
 Wisconsin: A Guide to the Badger State Writers Program of the Works Project Administration (NY, Hastings House, 1941)

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 0.9 **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**
 Quadrangle name Racine South, Wis. Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>16</u>	<u>436060</u>	<u>4730440</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 31 of Original Plat
 Lots 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10, South 12' of Lot 11, South 12' of Lot 2

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert D. Long
 organization Architectural Conservation Program date October 15, 1979
 street & number 730 Washington Avenue (City Hall) telephone 414/636-9280
 city or town Racine state Wisconsin 53403

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Richard Muey

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 2/21/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>W. Ray Free</u>	date <u>4/10/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Kristin J. O'Connell</u>	date <u>4/9/80</u>
Chief of Registration	

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 27 1980
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Memorial Hall, Racine, Wisconsin

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6,9,11 PAGE 1

6. Representation in Existing Surveys (continued)
Historic Architecture of Downtown Racine - Nelson Peter Ross
1975 local
9. Major Bibliographical References (continued)
Alice Sankey, Racine: The Belle City (Racine: Racine Board of Education).

Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn Withey. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased) Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., 1970.

H. Russell Zimmerman. The Heritage Guidebook
Milwaukee: Heritage Banks Inland Heritage Corporation 1976.
- Clippings
Memorial Hall. Racine County Historical Society File 163.

Memorial Hall. Racine County Historical Society File 164f.
- Surveys
Johnson, Johnson & Roy - Racine Architectural Survey
1974.

Nelson Peter Ross. Historic Architecture of Downtown Racine
1975.

11. Form Prepared By (continued)

Diane H. Filipowicz
Architectural Historian

Historic Preservation Division
State Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

(608) 262-2970