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RECEIVED OCT 31 1977
DATE ENTERED MAR 21 1978

**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 Green County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Courthouse Square

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Monroe VICINITY OF Second CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Wisconsin CODE 55 COUNTY Green CODE 045

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 checked="" 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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Green County

STREET & NUMBER Green County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Monroe VICINITY OF Wisconsin 53566

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Green County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Monroe STATE Wisconsin 53566

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE 1976 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN Madison STATE Wisconsin 53706

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
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The nominated property consists of the Green County Courthouse proper and its courthouse square. The square, 305 feet on each side, comprises a complete block in the City of Monroe bounded by 10th and 11th streets and 16th and 17th avenues. No single facade of the building stands out as being the main one, though nearly identical entries face both east and west. The cornerstone and single tall tower are on the west facade. The courthouse was constructed in 1891.

The only other structure occupying the square is a memorial to the Soldiers and Sailors of the Civil War placed on its site in 1913 by the O. F. Pinney Post, G.A.R. The memorial is located in the northwest corner of the square, is square in plan with Neo-Classical ornamentation, and is surmounted by a statue of a standing soldier holding a furled flag. The memorial is not held to be significant for purposes of this nomination.

The courthouse is two-and-one-half stories high plus a tall basement level. It has a hipped roof and four corner towers. Those at the northwest and southeast corners are round in plan with conical roofs; those at the northeast and southwest corners are square in plan and originally had pyramidal roofs. The southwest tower roof was removed in 1955 and replaced with a flat roof. The remaining three towers have standing-seam metal roofs. The southwest tower, much taller than the others, is partially free-standing. It has six stages and is 120 feet high, some 40 feet higher than the other towers. The top of this tower has four clock faces facing the cardinal points which are framed in rock-faced limestone voussoirs. The strong vertical emphasis presented by this tower provides the west facade with major visual interest.

The masonry bearing walls are of red brick from Maiden Rock, Wisconsin. The base and majority of the exterior trim is white limestone rock-faced ashlar. Some horizontal belt courses and trim are smooth-faced limestone. Four columns each, on the east and west facades, are polished marble and support porch roof arcades. The main roof framing is conventional milled lumber beams and joists.

The north and south facades have large, central pedimented advancing forms linked to flanking towers. The semicircular arch form is prominent and centrally used over a group of six windows on both facades which light the courtroom in the center of the second floor. Smaller arches are used over other windows and all arches employ rock-faced limestone voussoirs. The east and west facades have shallow limestone porches with marble colonnades sheltering the two major entrances to the building's main level.

The interior has three usable levels: lower level offices, main level offices, and the second-floor courtroom, law library, jury room and judge's chambers. The lower level offices, occupying a former basement, have been heavily remodeled and little of the original basement is visible. The main level is split by an east-west 100-foot-long corridor. It has a black-and-white tile checkered floor, oak wainscot, and plaster walls and ceiling, all of which appear to be original. Light fixtures are shades of wrought iron with stained glass covering suspended exposed incandescent light bulbs.

The courtroom is large and open, spanning the second floor from north to south. Two 8-foot-by-11-foot murals are on the east and west walls in the north end of the room, the latter serving as a backdrop to the judge's bench. A stepped spectators gallery occupies the south third of the room and the court area, behind a low railing, uses the north third. Surrounding the entire room is a low, oak wainscot beneath a raised plaster meander interlaced with a raised plaster floral design with goldleaf accents. Egg-and-dart Neo-Classical moldings are

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found in a roof grid of dropped beams. The original ceiling is concealed by acoustical tiles, which appears to be the only serious alteration in this room. The remainder of the second floor is occupied by court-related offices and rooms. Illumination in the courtroom is by temporary exposed incandescent bulbs, which will be replaced with new fixtures shortly. In reality, sufficient natural light is available from generous window groups on the north and south walls to eliminate the need for artificial light during daylight hours.

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 type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1891¹

BUILDER/ARCHITECT G. Stanley Mansfield^{1, 3}

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Green County Courthouse is eligible for entry on the National Register in that it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction; it has served as the seat of county government, and therefore civic identity, for over eight decades; and it contains two murals by a noted Wisconsin painter.

Architecture

According to a comprehensive countywide architectural survey conducted in 1976, the Green County Courthouse is the most imposing building in Green County. Some significant elements in the design of the building are rock-faced, semicircular stone arches; rock-faced limestone lintels and other trim, which contrast with smooth, red brick wall surfaces; a sense of weight and massiveness reinforced by deep window reveals; a general largeness and simplicity of form coupled with a horizontal emphasis; grouped and banded windows; short, robust columns in the entry porches; and corner towers introduced for visual emphasis.

The building was designed by G. Stanley Mansfield of Freeport, Illinois. He was a somewhat enigmatic figure who also designed the Richland County Courthouse, Richland Center (1889), and the Clinton County Courthouse in Iowa (1892). Mansfield also made unsuccessful design submissions for courthouses in Gundy County, Iowa, and Waukesha County, Wisconsin.³ No other information on Mansfield is available currently.

The courthouse dominates the center of Monroe, occupying its own square and surrounded by small, two-story commercial buildings, many from the 19th century. It is the major visual and historic anchor of the community, as are the county courthouses in Merrill, Antigo, Washburn and Dodgeville, all of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (Mansfield's Richland County Courthouse once occupied similar stature, but has suffered atrocious alteration.)

Government

This building is the third to function as a Green County Courthouse, and the second specifically built for this purpose. County functions first were carried on in the now-demolished American House, a hotel built in 1841 with partial county assistance. The first true courthouse building was a Greek Revival two-story structure built on the site of the present courthouse in 1844. Outgrown by century's end, this building was demolished for the present structure after a squabble over the location of the county seat with envious neighboring Monticello, 10 miles to the north.⁴

Art

Franz Rohrbeck (b. 1852) was a German-born artist from Milwaukee and a graduate of the Berlin Art Academy who immigrated to America in 1885. He worked as a panoramic painter in San Francisco, did some painting for the World Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, and became a muralist. He did murals in Minnesota, Iowa and Michigan as well as in county courthouses in Green Bay, Manitowoc and Lancaster. He is also known for his large mural, "The Spirit and Strength of Wisconsin," in the State Capitol, Madison. In the Green County Courthouse, Rohrbeck executed two 8-foot by 11-foot paintings in the second-floor court room dealing with the theme of justice. The two oils face each other and received minor restoration in 1930.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Goeldner, Paul. Temples of Justice: 19th Century County Courthouses in the Midwest and Texas. Ph.D. Dissertation, Columbia University, 1970.
- Hamilton, Edmund C. Guide to Monroe's Historical Homes and Buildings. Monroe, 1975.
- . Bricks, Brackets and Carpenter's Lace: 19th Century Architecture in Monroe, Wisconsin. Monroe: E.C. Hamilton, 1970.
- Kundert, Dorothy. The Green County Courthouse: Monroe, Wisconsin. Monroe: Green County Publicity Committee, 1976(?)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.14

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 283490 4719750
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nomination comprises the courthouse and its square, the latter bounded on the north by 10th Street, on the east by 17th Avenue, on the south by 11th Street, and on the west by 16th Avenue.

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

Jeff Dean State Preservation Planner

September 29, 1977

ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Division
 State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE
 608/262-9504

STREET & NUMBER
 816 State Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN
 Madison

STATE
 Wisconsin 53706

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Richard J. Curney

TITLE Director
 State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE 10/24/77

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

William S. Cole

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND HISTORIC MONUMENTS
 ATTEST: *William S. Cole*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 3-21-78
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE 3-10-78

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Statement of Significance (Continued)

Footnotes:

- 1 Cornerstone of the courthouse.
- 2 Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places, Green County.
- 3 Goeldner Dissertation.
- 4 Kundert Brochure.