



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

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

COUNTY COURTHOUSES OF WISCONSIN

Continuation sheet

Item number 6

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REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (continued):

Intensive Survey of the City of Milwaukee  
1978-79  
State Historical Society of Wisconsin  
Madison

local

Wisconsin 53706

Intensive Survey of the City of Kenosha  
1981  
State Historical Society of Wisconsin  
Madison

local

Wisconsin 53706

## 7. Description (see Intensive Survey Forms)

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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

#### Introduction

The theme County Courthouses of Wisconsin was defined to identify all such eligible buildings in the state, whether those buildings are original or replacement structures. In only one case, Bayfield County, has consideration of all former and current courthouses resulted in the nomination and listing of two courthouses, the old Courthouse of 1883 (NRHP 1974) and the "new" Courthouse of 1894 (NRHP 1974). In other cases where more than one courthouse is standing, the newer building is of insufficient age (constructed post 1940) to be considered for nomination. The cut-off date 1940 was selected for the study in order to allow for proper evaluation of buildings currently or very nearly fifty years of age in the context of Moderne design of the era (see Inclusion of Exempted Properties in Item 8 for more specific considerations).

In addition to the seventeen county courthouses already listed in the National Register, twenty-two more were judged eligible for nomination for architectural and/or historical significance. Six of the nominated courthouses (Douglas, Green Lake, Marquette, Pepin, Washington, Waushara) and two listed (Vernon and Lafayette) include combination sheriff's residence/ jails constructed on the same site; related both thematically and physically to their adjacent courthouses, these buildings also represent an important building type and penal concept. Several other courthouses include incorporated jail facilities (Crawford, old Waukesha-NRHP 1975, Juneau, Racine-NRHP 1980, Sheboygan, and Winnebago); the four latter examples, all built in the 1930s, represent an apparent change in both architectural and judicial concepts. A singular variant to both types of penal facilities, the Kenosha County Jail is a detached building of the same date as its courthouse (1925) which did not house its sheriff; included in the nomination with the adjoining courthouse, it is also considered to represent its period of construction, but not the special type of construction like the other jails. The jail theme is discussed further in Architectural Significance, Item 8.

#### Survey Methodology

Although most areas of the state have been surveyed, the Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places, which served as the initial photographic reference for the county courthouse survey, was not complete even in its superficial coverage of county courthouses in the state. In addition to the lack of information in the unsurveyed areas, in other cases the absence of a recorded courthouse in a surveyed community was not taken as final indication of an ineligible building. To ensure a complete survey and nomination, in May, 1981 form letters and a three-page County Courthouse Questionnaire were sent to all clerks in the state whose courthouses had not previously been listed. Six responded to the call for assistance by completing the questionnaire and sending supplementary information and photos to the Historic Preservation Division. A similar mailing in July to mayors of county seats from which no response had been received resulted in two additional responses. From April through October of 1981, staff of the Division made personal inspections of all county courthouses in the course of other travel; in the few cases where northern counties were not visited, it was not until photographic proof of ineligibility of existing buildings was sent by volunteer consultants that buildings were not investigated further. After a preliminary list of eligible buildings was compiled based on pre-1940 construction date (see Inclusion of Exempted Properties, Item 8, for fuller discussion) and reasonable retention of integrity, staff began writing and research to determine aspects of both historical and architectural significance. In

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early October, a final list of twenty-two eligible courthouses was compiled (excluding several in the preliminary list which had been extensively and misleadingly remodeled) and all county clerks who had been consulted in May were notified of the selections.

As mentioned, eligibility was first decided on the basis of retention of reasonable integrity. Because virtually all of the buildings had received alterations and additions, retention of identifying details was used as a criterion for further consideration. All of the nominated courthouses are recognizable as originally constructed, despite minor sometimes unsympathetic and distracting additions; buildings disqualified (such as Richland, Kewaunee, Fond du Lac, Door, Forest, Florence, Burnett, Waupaca, Washburn, Rusk, and Jackson) had lost a combination of important visual elements like towers, porches, cornices, window openings and glass; or through alterations their principal facades had been wholly obscured. In cases of doubt, courthouses whose overall period character was still evident were included because of their local architectural and historical significance. The total, then, of seventeen listed and twenty-two nominated courthouses and five detached jails, represents the current total of eligible courthouses structures (i.e., those on the site of an eligible courthouse) in the seventy-two Wisconsin counties. (Eligible county-owned buildings, such as the Florence, Kewaunee, and Richland County jails, were not considered if located on non-contiguous sites.) Specific courthouses are listed as to eligibility in Figure 1, and mapped in Figure 2.

Descriptions of courthouses and associated jails are entered under Architectural Statement on each Intensive Survey form.

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## Listed in the National Register:

"Old" Bayfield, 1883; NRHP 1974	Langlade, 1905; NRHP 1977
"New" Bayfield, 1894; NRHP 1974	Lincoln, 1902; NRHP 1977
Brown, 1908; NRHP 1976	Manitowoc, 1906, NRHP 1981
Grant, 1902; NRHP 1978	Oneida, 1908; NRHP 1981
Green, 1891; NRHP 1978	Old Ozaukee, 1902; NRHP 1976
Iowa, 1859; NRHP 1971	Racine, 1930; NRHP 1980
Iron, 1892; NRHP 1977	Taylor, 1913; NRHP 1980
Lafayette, 1905; NRHP 1978	Vernon, 1880; NRHP 1979
	Old Waukesha, 1893; NRHP 1975

## NOMINATED TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER:

Adams, 1913	Monroe, 1895
Ashland, 1915	Oconto, 1891/1907
Calumet, 1913	Pepin (and jail), 1874
Crawford (and jail), 1867	Pierce, 1905
Dodge, 1878; 1937	Polk, 1899
Douglas (and jail), 1918	St. Croix, 1900
Green Lake (and jail), 1899	Sauk, 1906
Juneau, 1938	Sheboygan, 1933
Kenosha (and jail), 1925	Waushara (and jail), 1928
Marquette (and jail), 1916	Washington (and jail), 1889
Milwaukee, 1931	Winnebago, 1937

## Not Eligible (loss of integrity):

Burnett  
Door  
Florence  
Fond du Lac  
Forest  
Jackson  
Kewaunee  
Richland  
Rusk  
Washburn  
Waupaca

## Not Eligible (insufficient age and significance):

Barron	Outagamie
Buffalo	Ozaukee
Chippewa	new Polk
Clark	Price
Columbia	Portage
Dane	Rock
Dunn	Sawyer
Eau Claire	Shawano
Jefferson	Trempealeau
La Crosse	Vilas
Marathon	new Washington
Marinette	new Waukesha
Menominee	Wood

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				assoc. with development of localit.

**Specific dates** various (see ISF)      **Builder/Architect** various (See Intensive Survey Forms)

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Introduction

The county courthouses of Wisconsin are among the essential historical and architectural resources of the state. As important local representatives of county government, all but two of the nominated buildings are of at least local significance architecturally as representatives of periods of construction; as vanishing historic forms of penal facilities, the nominated adjacent detached sheriff's residence/jails represent types of construction as well. Although each of the buildings is by nature associated with local history, only cases of substantial importance to politics and government, community development or planning, or social/humanitarian themes are cited as evidence of historical significance.

In addition to those already listed at state level of significance (old and new Bayfield, Iowa, Lafayette, Lincoln, Racine, and Vernon) as extraordinary representatives of periods of construction, courthouses in Kenosha, Milwaukee, Washington and Winnebago counties are proposed for listing at the higher level. Although the Green County and old Waukesha County courthouses were initially listed at local level of significance, in the context of the thematic study they were rated among the most distinguished buildings in the state. Substantiation of the significance of each of the nominated buildings is supplied in the Architectural and Historical Statements on individual Intensive Survey Forms.

Historical Background

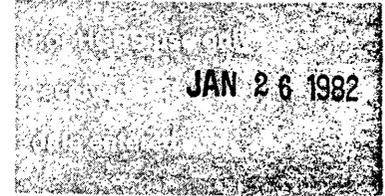
Designed to serve primarily as administrative subdivisions of the state government for the discharge of state responsibilities, the 72 counties of Wisconsin (Figure 2) are at once creations of the Legislature and important units of local government, intermediaries between the largest and the smallest civil divisions in the state.<sup>1</sup> Based upon long-standing Anglo-Saxon precedent, the first Wisconsin counties were created as early as 1818--thirty years before statehood--when Governor Lewis Cass of the Michigan Territory divided present-day Wisconsin into Brown County (in the southeast), Crawford County (in the southwest), and Michilimackinac County (in the north).<sup>2</sup> As settlement expanded and population increased, territorial legislatures created further counties to facilitate the local administration of the region. When the Wisconsin Territory was established, in 1836, 19 counties had been created in the area and by 1848, when Wisconsin was admitted to the Union, 29 counties had been carved from the original three.<sup>3</sup> Empowered by Article IV of the Wisconsin Constitution to create and regulate counties, the state Legislature established new counties from old throughout the 19th century. By 1860, all counties south of a line drawn west from Green Bay had been established and, in 1901, with the establishment of Rusk County, the process finally came to an end until 1961 when Menominee County was created from parts of Shawano and Oconto counties.<sup>4</sup>

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As an administrative division of the state, Wisconsin counties have traditionally been charged with such responsibilities as the maintenance of a county road system and county courts, the establishment of a county sheriff's office and jail, and the discharge of such social services over the years (including county hospitals, insane asylums, poor farms, welfare agencies and the like) as the Legislature deemed necessary. Likewise, the structure of county government is nearly uniform throughout the state and includes the elective offices of clerk, treasurer, clerk of the circuit court, register of deeds, district attorney, sheriff, and (in some counties) coroner and surveyor. In addition, 68 of the 72 counties are coterminous with judicial circuits, and county voters elect the judges while county taxes help maintain the court system. The entire county government is administered by a Board of Supervisors (whose composition and organization varies from county to county), largely conducting business through a series of committees.<sup>5</sup>

But if in theory the county exists to administer state functions, it is also an essential unit of local government, with enough power to greatly affect the citizens of the county (and to raise taxes to finance its projects). The services which the county provides--maintenance of records, hospitals, roads, jails--impact immediately upon most citizens, and the Legislature has allowed enough latitude in the individual interpretation of county responsibilities that the quality varies widely from county to county. Moreover, since county officials are elected--and hence sensitive to a local constituency--the administration of the county reflects the local political climate even if the degree of "home rule" is limited. Ranging in size from Milwaukee County, with over one million people, to Menomonee, with less than 3000, and in land area from Marathon County with 1586 square miles to Pepin with 235 miles,<sup>6</sup> the counties have evolved "personalities" as unique as their physical configurations.

Although the county system can trace its history to medieval England, the county has remained a historically significant unit of government in Wisconsin. Throughout the 19th and early 20th century, the county was often perceived as the most important unit of government--closer than the state and more powerful than the municipality (especially in counties with small populations and few incorporated places). Yet even as transportation and communications improved, the county grew in responsibility. A survey of county government in the mid-twentieth century noted that the "most striking fact . . . is the emergence from a relatively simple government activity with few functions to a highly important activity with a largely increased number of functions, a development that is continuing at a rapid pace."<sup>7</sup> (The survey attributed this expansion to the rapid urbanization of the state, proving that the function of counties does not diminish in heavily populated areas.)

But unlike larger and more expansive branches of government, the affairs of the county are traditionally managed from a single building. A center of law, a storehouse of records (and hence county history) and a contact with the state government, the county courthouse inevitably became the center of the community and a focal point for the entire county. (Not surprisingly, acrimonious debate and frequent elections often preceded the selection of a site.) In addition to housing the offices of judges, commissioners, clerks, and supervisors, the Courthouse also provided a forum for the politics and gossip which

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attend such activities, and the Courthouse Square is historically the center of civic life, the site of hangings and elections, mass meetings and political rallies.

While neither the most ubiquitous symbols of civil authority nor the most powerful, the county courthouses of Wisconsin continue to evoke a historical continuity which predates statehood and mirrors the development of Wisconsin, a symbol recalling both the authority of the state and the development of local self-government.

Architectural Significance

As specified on individual Intensive Survey Forms, nomination of all twenty-two courthouses is based on representation of periods of construction. By nature local landmarks of imposing scale and design, all were intended to be outstanding buildings in their respective communities. This concept of innate local significance was used to decide cases of questionable eligibility; buildings initially judged from a broad perspective to be of lesser significance architecturally were actually buildings of distinction in smaller county seats (as in Adams, Green Lake, and Waushara counties). Testifying to their symbolic prominence, all are formally sited in open courthouse squares, on generous centrally-located lots, or on dramatic hillside sites. Many are transitional elements between commercial and residential areas of the community. As mentioned previously, alterations and additions are characteristic of these buildings, both inside and out; where parts of original or notable interiors are intact (especially lobbies and courtrooms), those are discussed on Intensive Survey Forms, and are considered to contribute to the significance of buildings. (Courthouses in Juneau and Pepin counties, nominated for historical significance, were disqualified for nomination on architectural grounds because of loss of important period qualities.)

In style, Wisconsin's county courthouses range from Greek Revival to Moderne, with the greatest number conceived in the NeoClassical-Beaux Arts tradition characteristic of the turn-of-the century. Distinguished designs of the Romanesque, NeoClassical, and Moderne modes in particular were the work of well-known Wisconsin, Minneapolis, and Chicago architects, deliberately selected to achieve the necessary architectural heights required by the exercise of county government. While the construction of earlier nineteenth century courthouses was sparsely covered in the press, later nineteenth century buildings rose amidst verbose celebration of the rise of American cultural identity, alongside progress reports of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in the 1890s. Newspapers and dedication programs related to twentieth-century building campaigns between the world wars defended the principal of American independence, in marked contrast to coverage of small battles among varying county seats in the previous century. Seldom was a courthouse's particular character considered by county boards and the press; the means of achieving distinction was left to the architect, and concern was focussed on selected exterior elements and the richness of interior effects.

Although most of the later nineteenth and twentieth century courthouses were preceded by at least one and often two earlier buildings, the extant Greek Revival courthouses at Dodgeville in Iowa County and Durand in Pepin County recall the earliest days of the establishment of county government. The Crawford County Courthouse at Prairie du Chien is a fine representative of the Italianate Style, the purest of that mode in the state.

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Courthouses at Viroqua in Vernon County (NRHP 1979) and Juneau in Dodge County include characteristics of the Italianate as well as rare vestiges of High Victorian Gothic (Vernon) and Second Empire (Dodge) modes. The Lincoln County Courthouse at Merrill, among the best in the state, is a singular blend of Second Empire, Romanesque, and Beaux Arts elements brought together in a 1902 design. Following the success of H. H. Richardson's use of the Romanesque, courthouses in Polk, Green, St. Croix, Iron, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha counties create some of the most powerful images of government in the state; among which the Waukesha, Ozaukee, and Lincoln courthouses are remarkable for their specific resemblance to the landmark Allegheny County Courthouse in Pittsburgh. As idiosyncratic designs in the Romanesque vein, the Green County Courthouse is distinguished in the bold handling of color and materials, and Washington County in the incorporation of an unusual (and appropriate to its early ethnic settlement) northern European flavor.

The relationship between classicism and government is statistically proved by the nineteen Wisconsin courthouses conceived in that temper. The earliest of the type, the old Bayfield Courthouse of 1883, is a brownstone example whose classicism rises through the Italianate. Designed in the early response to the World's Columbian Exposition in the late nineteenth century, the "new" Bayfield, Pierce, Lafayette and Langlade county courthouses are dominated by colossal temple porticos and secondary delicate domes. The Brown, Grant, Manitowoc, and Oneida county courthouses are more robust, nearly cubic masonry buildings with all of the formal devices of the Beaux Arts, overwhelmed by heavy domes. Like the Taylor and Calumet county concrete-trimmed brick buildings of a decade later, the Manitowoc and Oneida buildings are nearly identical designs of virtually the same date by the same architect; Christ Tegen is credited with the more impressive Manitowoc and Rhinelander buildings of 1903 and 1908, and B. Mehner with the large-scale but modest buildings in Medford and Chilton. Marquette, Ashland, and Douglas County courthouses, with fewer overt NeoClassical references, incorporate the formal simplicity of Beaux Arts design. Simple in both overall concept and decoration, the Green Lake, Adams, and Waushara county courthouses include the essential NeoClassical portico and symmetrical disposition of elements at a scale befitting landmarks in their communities; that simplicity is enhanced by the evident care with which the buildings and sites are maintained.

The Kenosha and Milwaukee county courthouses are monumental NeoClassical buildings in scale and in the concepts of their planning. Conceived as part of larger civic complexes, both are visibly related to the early twentieth century City Beautiful movement and among the more striking vestiges of "modern city planning" in the state. The Kenosha County Courthouse, a more successful venture, derives its historical significance from that association. Called by scholar Henry-Russell Hitchcock "the grandest American example of twentieth-century Classical design" (see Intensive Survey Form), the Milwaukee County Courthouse is the pre-eminent classical courthouse in the state, and perhaps the most visually haunting.

Nominated as necessary exceptions to the fifty-year requirement (see Inclusion of Exempted Properties below), courthouses in Sheboygan, Winnebago, and Dodge counties are their communities' best representatives of Moderne design. All are identifiably

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a part of Depression-era design, but with exceptional commitment to distinguished form and decoration. Like the Racine County Courthouse (1930), the later 1930s buildings in Sheboygan, Juneau, and Winnebago included jail facilities. This incorporation of modern penal facilities, whose advantages were extolled in publications of the period, represents a change in both architectural and judicial concepts from the earlier inmate residence with a paternalistic sheriff (and not incidentally, his wife/cook/housekeeper) in a detached building to the final part of the process of administering a system.

Detached sheriff's residence/jails of the earlier type still associated with adjacent courthouses include those in Pepin, Washington, Waushara, Green Lake, and Marquette and Douglas counties, as well as those listed with the Vernon and Lafayette county courthouses. All representative of periods of construction, these represent types of construction as well. Endangered because of inadequate size and functional obsolescence, these buildings are quickly being replaced by the newer public safety buildings already standing or in planning in many county seats. The sheriff's residence/jails in Green Lake, Marquette, and Waushara counties were designed as two-story Midwestern builders' brick cubes with token elements of Colonial Revival or Prairie Style; well-suited in character to their simpler companion courthouses, in themselves they form a characteristic type of the early twentieth century. The earlier Pepin and Washington county jails are decorative opposites, the former an altered but identifiable vernacular descendant of the late Gothic Revival, and the latter an eccentric but pleasing composition of Medieval and Queen Anne confections. The Douglas County Jail of 1918 is a smaller companion to the NeoClassical courthouse of the same date.

Politics and Government

Although each nominated courthouse inherently reflects the political history of the county, most lack specific historical significance, serving instead as a backdrop for the daily enactments of local government. In Crawford County, however, the courthouse building itself has played a central role in the politics and government of the locality. Built in 1867, the Crawford County Courthouse is the oldest of the nominated buildings and has served as the administrative and judicial seat of the state's oldest county for over a century. Significant not only for its enduring service, the courthouse also houses the mid-nineteenth century county prison, a rare and important remnant of the state's earliest penal facilities and an important symbol of "law and order" in the history of the county. (See Intensive Survey Form for specific historical statement.)

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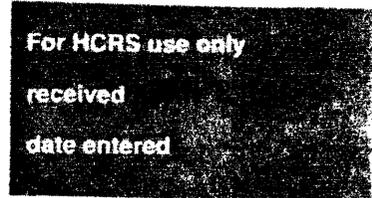
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Associated With the Development of a Locality

A classic example of how a courthouse can directly influence the development of a village as well as a county, the Pepin County Courthouse, built in 1873-74, was a central factor in the 19th century growth of the village of Durand and a pivotal element in the turbulent controversy surrounding the selection of a Pepin County seat. Built by the village to ensure its status as the county seat, the courthouse originally served a dual function as community center and county courthouse. When voters removed the seat to a rival village in 1881, the courthouse continued to serve as the civic center of Durand. But by 1886, the courthouse building was the lure which brought the county seat back to the village where it has remained ever since. More than an arena for local politics, the courthouse building itself has shaped the history of both village and county. (See Intensive Survey Forms for specific historical statement.)

Community Planning

Although most county courthouses in Wisconsin are situated on "courthouse squares" located near a central business district, the "square" is often little more than a lawn surrounded by noncomplementary business buildings or residences. In the early 20th century, however, as the ideals of city planning became widespread, several counties determined to make the courthouse the focal point of a monumental civic center. Typically located in the city's heart, punctuated with plazas and boulevards, and composed of classical architecture, the civic center plans (many were never realized) reflected the dramatic growth of the City Beautiful movement in the first decades of the 20th century. Two Wisconsin county courthouses are historically significant for their association with that movement.

The Kenosha County Courthouse (1925), the first unit completed in the state's most successful civic center, was the result of unusual inter-governmental cooperation, fostered in large part by the "progressive" city manager system which had just been adopted in Kenosha--the first such system in the state. As the cornerstone of the civic center, the courthouse was recognized throughout the state, and honored nationally as an example to small cities of "how much can be accomplished." As an outstanding, and inspiring, example of the City Beautiful movement, the Kenosha County Courthouse has historical significance on the state level.

If less successful than Kenosha--burdened by conflict and delays--the Milwaukee County Courthouse is nonetheless an important local landmark, reflecting an early and historically important attempt of Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee to cooperate on the development of a monumental civic center in the heart of the city. The result is a historically significant landmark in the history of Milwaukee regional planning. (See Intensive Survey Forms for specific historical statement.)

Social/Humanitarian

With the advent of the Great Depression, Wisconsin counties were unexpectedly burdened with enormous problems of social welfare and financial solvency. To alleviate those

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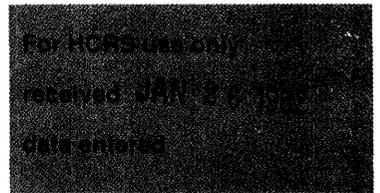
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problems--and keep county government functioning--considerable amounts of federal aid, often in the form of WPA projects, were routed to the counties. The Juneau County Courthouse is a historically significant local WPA project, whose construction employed local workers, helped rejuvenate a sagging economy, and helped strengthen the county government. Moreover, the building reflects the increased role of the federal government in the twentieth century administration of county government. (See Intensive Survey Form for specific historical statement.)

Survey Comprehensiveness and Results

As previously discussed, all county courthouses were investigated, through mailing of the County Courthouse Questionnaire, site inspection, and in-house research. All buildings, whether initially determined to be eligible or not, were photographed, and inventory cards were added to the state-wide Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places for reference. Thus, to the limit of available information, the survey and nomination of county courthouses is exhaustive to construction date of 1940, and the thematic nomination can be considered current until 1990; additional nominations may be made before then if sufficient information is discovered to override the fifty-year rule.

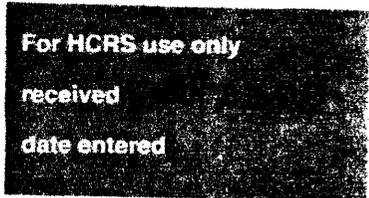
Inclusion of Exempted Properties

Because of their local importance, obvious Moderne/Art Deco identity, and frequent association with the WPA phenomenon, it was felt that sufficient information and historical perspective were available to evaluate and nominate buildings constructed through 1939. Four courthouses less than fifty years of age (but close to that) were judged eligible for nomination: Sheboygan (1933), Winnebago (1937), Juneau (1938), and the 1937 addition to the Dodge County Courthouse. Because all are Moderne designs (part of an architectural phenomenon which has already received scholarly recognition), it was possible to apply a comparative standard to decide which were of greater or lesser significance. With the added aid of comparison with the Racine County Courthouse (1930) listed in the National Register in 1980 at state level of significance, one other courthouse (Winnebago, of 1937) was judged to have extraordinary architectural significance meriting the state-level rating. The Sheboygan example (1933), while of less distinction on the exterior, has an interior of richness equal to the state-level buildings, and so its nomination, albeit at local level, was logical. Due to its involvement in the WPA program, a certain and ready evaluation of the Juneau County Courthouse (1937) was made. As part of the earlier (1878) Dodge County Courthouse, nomination of the Moderne addition was inescapable; as an equal in scale and period character with the Second Empire/Italianate portion, the 1937 "addition" might be considered a separate design, with lesser distinction than other courthouses of its kind, but greater than that of other excluded 1930s courthouses.

Two courthouses of the 1930s era were deliberately excluded from the nomination due to a combination of lack of distinction and loss of integrity. The Vilas County Courthouse,

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although it has some period features, lacks the distinction and integrity of other WPA buildings in Eagle River; no important historical significance was discovered to warrant nomination in that area. The Jackson County Courthouse, with a large addition of 1937, had an intriguing overall 1930s character; research and close examination showed the building to be a severely altered late Italianate design by architect Henry C. Koch to which a large addition had been made, and so the whole was disqualified due to loss of integrity. (Likewise, the Burnett County Courthouse was initially thought to be a version of late 1920s-30s design, with a stepped roofline and stucco facing. Close examination revealed that the original roofline and cornices of a late nineteenth century building had been removed, window openings had been reduced, and the brick walls had been covered; this then, too, could not be considered.)

The ability to distinguish between eligible and ineligible properties of the era, as well as between those of local and state level of significance, confirms the soundness of nomination through the cut-off date of 1940.

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- <sup>1</sup> For a complete discussion of the development and organization of county government in Wisconsin, see James Donoghue, The Local Government System of Wisconsin (Madison: State of Wisconsin, 1968), pp. 18-33.
  - <sup>2</sup> Wisconsin Historical Records Survey, Origin and Legislative History of County Boundaries (Madison: Historical Records Survey, 1942), p. 4.
  - <sup>3</sup> M. G. Toepel, "The Community of Governments in Wisconsin," Blue Book, 1952, (Madison: Legislative Reference Library, 1952), p. 123.
  - <sup>4</sup> James Donoghue, "Local Government in Wisconsin," Blue Book 1979-80, (Madison: Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau, 1979), p. 124.
  - <sup>5</sup> Donoghue, Local Government System of Wisconsin, pp. 18-32.
  - <sup>6</sup> Blue Book, 1979-80, (Madison: Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau, 1979), p. 772.
  - <sup>7</sup> Toepel, p. 125.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

See Intensive Survey Forms

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property see Intensive Survey Forms

Quadrangle name various

Quadrangle scale various

UMT References see Continuation Sheet

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## Verbal boundary description and justification

see Intensive Survey Forms

## 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 Diane H. Filipowicz/Architectural Historian; Leonard Garfield/Historian

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 8-10/1981

street & number 816 State Street telephone 608/262-2970

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 (see Intensive Survey Forms)

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 Steney

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 1/12/82

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

see decision sheet for listing date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name County Courthouses of Wisconsin Thematic Resources  
State Wisconsin

Nomination	Type of Review	Decision
1. Adams County Courthouse	<del>Substantive Review</del>	<u>Lynn A. Beebe 3/9/82</u>
2. Ashland County Courthouse	Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 3/9/82</u>
3. Calumet County Courthouse	Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 3/9/82</u>
4. Crawford County Courthouse and Jail	Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 3/9/82</u>
5. Dodge County Courthouse	Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 3/9/82</u>
6. Douglas County Courthouse and Jail	<del>Substantive Review</del>	<u>Lynn A. Beebe 3/9/82</u>
7. Green Lake County Courthouse and Jail	Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 3/9/82</u>
8. Juneau County Courthouse	<del>Less than 50 years old</del> <del>Substantive Review</del>	<u>Linda McClelland 11/3/82</u>
9. Kenosha County Courthouse and Jail	Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 3/9/82</u>
10. Marquette County Courthouse, Sheriff's Office and Jail	Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 3/9/82</u>
11. Milwaukee County Courthouse	<del>Substantive Review</del>	<u>Lynn A. Beebe 3/9/82</u>
12. Monroe County Courthouse	Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 3/9/82</u>
13. Oconto County Courthouse	Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 3/9/82</u>
14. Pepin County Courthouse and Jail	Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 3/9/82</u>
15. Pierce County Courthouse	Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 3/9/82</u>
16. Polk County Courthouse	<del>Substantive Review</del>	<u>Lynn A. Beebe 3/9/82</u>
17. St. Croix County Courthouse	Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 3/9/82</u>
18. Sauk County Courthouse	Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 3/9/82</u>
19. Sheboygan County Courthouse	<del>Less than 50 years old</del> <del>Substantive Review</del>	<u>Don In Dougal 3/12/82</u>
20. Washington County Courthouse and Jail	Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 3/9/82</u>
21. Waushara County Courthouse and Jail	<del>Substantive Review</del>	<u>Lynn A. Beebe 3/9/82</u> <u>Don In Dougal 6/23/82</u>
22. Winnebago County Courthouse	<del>Substantive Review</del>	<u>Delores Byers 12/2/85</u>
23. Florence County Courthouse	Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 12/2/85</u>
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