

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---|-------------------------|------------------|
| City, Village or Town: Oshkosh | County: Winnebago | Surveyor: James P. Coughlin & D. Filipowicz | Date: 5/81 9/81 | Street Number |
| Street Address: 415 Jackson Street | | Legal Description: (over) | Acreage: approx. 2.5 | |

| | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--|--|--|
| Current Name & Use: Winnebago County Courthouse | | Current Owner: County of Winnebago; Attn: Dorothy Propp, County Clerk | | |
| Film Roll No. | Affix Contact Prints | Current Owner's Address: 415 Jackson Street, Oshkosh | | |
| Negative No. | | Special Features Not Visible In Photographs: see Description of interior, Architectural Statement, Item 3. | | |
| Facade Orient. | | Interior visited? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No | | |

| Original Name & Use: | Source | Previous Owners | Dates | Uses | Source | Town |
|---------------------------------|--------|-----------------|-------|------|--------|---------|
| 2 Winnebago County Court House | | | | | | |
| Dates of Construction: | Source | | | | | Range |
| 1937 | A | | | | | |
| Architect and/or Builder: | Source | | | | | Section |
| Granger & Bollenbacher, Chicago | B | | | | | |

| | | |
|--|---|----------|
| 3 Architectural Significance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Represents work of a master <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Possesses high artistic values <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Represents a type, period, or method of construction <input type="checkbox"/> Is a visual landmark in the area <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . <input type="radio"/> None. | 4 Historical Significance <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="radio"/> None. | Map Name |
|--|---|----------|

| | | |
|--|---|----------|
| Statement of Architectural Significance: Description: Masked by tall oak trees and topped by a series of low set-backs, the full effect of the Moderne design of the Winnebago County Courthouse is visible only by air. Including the penthouse (former jail), the Indiana limestone building is five stories in height, with ground-level dimension of 238 x 78 feet. Wall surfaces overall are smooth, interrupted only by a shallow center projection, sharp corners, thin graduated reveals, and incised courses along the terraced rooflines. (over) | Statement of Historical Significance: When the county of Winnebago was founded in 1843, it was composed only of the Towns of Winnebago and Butte de Morts; ten more were added within seven years. Selection of the first seat did not come until 1847. The first courthouse at Oshkosh was constructed in that year, while court sessions were held in the village schoolhouse ^E . A second courthouse was constructed in 1854, and a third, in the second Empire style, was completed in 1859. In the July 27, 1938 program of the present courthouse, the county board decried "the spread of dictatorisms in the old countries," and saw the new courthouse as evidence that county boards "---exercised their rights as free men wisely and well." (continued..See Continuation Sheet) | Map Code |
|--|---|----------|

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Sources of Information (Reference to Above) | | 6 District Classification District Name: _____ <input type="radio"/> Pivotal <input type="radio"/> Contributing <input type="radio"/> Non-Contributing Initials: _____ Date: _____ |
| Cornerstone | | |
| Building Dedication Plaque. | | |
| (over) | | |
| (over) | | 8 Eligibility for the National Register <input checked="" type="radio"/> Eligible <input type="radio"/> Not Eligible <input type="radio"/> Unknown Initials: _____ Date: _____ |
| (over) | | |
| (over) | | |

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

Legal Description: Replat of Jackson's Subdivision of Lot 3, Block 43, SE $\frac{1}{2}$ of Lot 1 and all of Lots 2,3,4,13,14, and 17, Wright's Subdivision of Lot 2, Block 53, also Lot 1,2, 3,4, and 6, Block 46.

Sources of Information (continued):

- C "Description of the New Winnebago Co. Courthouse," Arthur E. Hedke, County Clerk, handbook of the 33rd Annual Convention of the Wisconsin Co. Clerks Association, 1938.
- D Dictionary of American Architects Deceased, H.F. and E.R. Withey, Hennessey & Ingalls. Inc., 1970, pp. 64-65; 247.
- E Commemorating the Completion of the New Courthouse, Winnebago County, Wisconsin, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, July 27, 1938.
- F County records.

Architectural Statement (continued):

Windows are confined to sets of two-story multi-paned columns, three per facade. The intrados of rectangular portals on the front and side entrances are carved in low, sharp relief. The evolution of civilization is expressed over and to the sides of the front doors in Indian forms and working county officials; figures of industry flank the side entrances. The center revolving door on the front (southeast) facade is flanked by pairs of swinging doors; frames, trim, and stair rails are all of bronze. Tall, dolmen-like incised bronze lamps are set at the ends of the low, wide runs of granite steps. Concrete walks cross the front and sides of the sharp triangular lot.

The low rectangular lobby on the first floor is faced with pale mauve Portuguese marble. Curved corners are defined by incised fluting. Floors are striped with contrasting terrazzo divided by bronze seams. Edges of the plaster ceiling are worked into sharp compound moldings. Reflected light from the doors on the southeast end and the windows on the stairwell on the northwest illuminates the interior. A bronze compass, enclosed by the county name, prefaces the stairway. Bronze rails rise along the gray French marble walls; at the first landing, the stair divides. A variety of woods appoints various courtrooms and offices; birch and rift-sawn oak in county board rooms and offices, copper-finish birch and Amercian walnut in the circuit court and judge's anteroom and chamber, and butternut in the county court. Marble-faced walls in other hearing rooms and halls are finished with curved corners and cylindrical engaged columns with flat, incised "fluting" and "capitals." Desks are of oak, walnut, or birch, and all hardware (railings, elevator doors, letter boxes) is bronze. The building boasts forty-five clocks.^C The jail, a "modern roof-top Alcatraz,"^E is no longer in use since the neighboring Public Safety Building was completed. Building alterations have been limited to installation of additional fluorescent ceiling boxes, which have little impact on the interior design.

Originally a late nineteenth-century neighborhood, the area has become progressively more commercialized. Completion of monumental Social Services and Public Safety buildings on adjacent blocks has recently given the area a civic identity.

Significance: Rich in period Moderne/Art Deco materials and details, the Winnebago County Courthouse is a splendid representative of a period of construction. The rectangular building with its roof-top terracing is less sculptural than its contemporaries at Racine and Sheboygan, but the richness of interior appointments is equal; in fact, the quality of its sculptural reliefs and the suavility of interior forms make the building of state-level significance, along with the courthouse in Racine.

(continued on continuation sheet)

Architectural Statement (continued):

As is characteristic in architectural history in southeastern Wisconsin, architects for the project were drawn from Chicago. Architect Frank Venning, a partner in the firm of Granger & Bollenbacher, is credited with the design.^F Principal Alfred Hoyt Granger (1867-1939), who was trained at MIT and the Ecole des Beaux Arts, is best known for his work with former partner Charles S. Frost in the design of railroad stations, including those at Beaver Dam (1900; NRHP 1981) and Racine (1901; NRHP 1980) in Wisconsin. Twenty years after the end of the Frost & Granger partnership, the firm of Granger & Bollenbacher was founded. John C. Bollenbacher (1884-1939) also trained at MIT, and practiced with partner Elmo C. Lowe before joining Granger. In addition to their design for the Oshkosh Courthouse, the firm is known for buildings at the University of Illinois (Chicago), Kenyon College, and the University of Indiana. Master sculptor Alfonse Ianelli, also responsible for the exterior sculptural reliefs on the Racine County Courthouse (1930; NRHP 1980), carried out the program on the entrances of the Winnebago County Courthouse.^C The evolution of civilization is represented in Indian figures and symbols combined with Constructivist representations of county officials on the canted surfaces of stone; the theme enhances the period character of the building.

Historical Statement (continued):

Indeed, the county board of Winnebago had voted to construct the building even after a federal loan and grant for the \$800,000 cost of construction had been refused, deciding also to increase the expenditure to \$950,000.^E Previously, \$50,000 had been spent for purchase of the site at Algoma and Jackson Streets.

