



Historic Preservation Commission

Regular Meeting

335 South Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
<http://www.de-pere.org>

Agenda

Monday, December 16, 2019

6:00 PM

De Pere City Hall Council Chambers

Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.84, Notice is hereby given to the public that a meeting of the **Historic Preservation Commission** of the City of De Pere will be held on **December 16, 2019** at **6:00 PM** in the **De Pere City Hall Council Chambers, 335 S. Broadway Street, De Pere, WI 54115.**

This meeting can be viewed LIVE at www.depere.tv. This meeting is also rebroadcast on Spectrum Cable Channel 4 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99 throughout the week and available on demand at www.depere.tv.

Call to Order

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of the minutes of the September 16, 2019 Historic Preservation Commission meeting.
3. Discussion and possible action regarding changes made by the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (Public Law 115-97), related to transfers of Wisconsin's supplemental to the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit.
4. Discussion and possible action regarding the procedure for de-listing properties that are state and federally recognized as historic.
5. Discussion and possible action regarding a request to consider the nomination and designation of three properties as local historic structures and or sites in year 2020.
6. Discussion regarding the potential preservation of old and historic buildings, such as the Century and Old Journal Buildings.

Adjournment

Any person wishing to attend this meeting, who, because of disability, requires special accommodations should contact the City Planner's office at 339-4043 by noon on the day of the meeting so that arrangements can be made.

Agenda Sent To:

Alderspersons
City Administrator
Mayor
Department Heads
TV, Newspapers & Radio Stations
Kress Family Library
De Pere Chamber of Commerce
Joe De Rose, Wisconsin Historical Society



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Historic Preservation Commission Action

MEETING DATE: December 16, 2019

DEPARTMENT: Planning

FROM: Kelly Barker

SUBJECT: Approval of the minutes of the September 16, 2019 Historic Preservation Commission meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

- HPC_Sep2019_Minutes_Draft(PDF)



Historic Preservation Commission

Regular Meeting

335 South Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
<http://www.de-pere.org>

Draft Minutes

Monday, September 16, 2019

6:00 PM

De Pere City Hall Council Chambers

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairperson Mike Fleck

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Scott Crevier	Aldersperson	Present	
Mike Fleck	Chairperson	Present	
Gene Hackbarth	Commissioner	Present	
Brian Netzel	Vice Chairperson	Present	
Sue Sands	Commissioner	Present	
Adam Turriff	Commissioner	Excused	
Joanne Vomastic-Muka	Commissioner	Present	

Also present: City Planner Peter Schleinz.

2. Approval of the minutes of the August 19, 2019 Historic Preservation Commission Meeting.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Gene Hackbarth, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Brian Netzel, Vice Chairperson
AYES:	Crevier, Fleck, Hackbarth, Netzel, Sands, Vomastic-Muka
EXCUSED:	Adam Turriff

3. Discussion and possible action regarding the procedure for de-listing nationally recognized historic properties that have been demolished or that no longer meet the design requirements for national recognition.

Gene Hackbarth explained that one of the responsibilities of the De Pere Historic Preservation Commission is to monitor the demolition of historic properties and to provide the Wisconsin Historical Society background information relating to what happened to a property in order for it to qualify for de-listing. Gene identified three properties which would qualify for possible de-listing:

106 S Broadway Street - currently listed on the national register, damaged in a fire in April 2019 and was subsequently demolished.

502 N Wisconsin Street - currently listed as a contributing property to the North Michigan/North Superior Street historic district, was demolished due to housing code violations.

520 N Michigan Street - currently listed as a contributing property on the N Michigan/N Superior Street historic district. Recently remodeled the street facing facade, which may make it ineligible as a contributing property, and thus require de-listing.

Gene Hackbarth stated that he is willing to put together the final paperwork required for the de-listing process of these three properties. He explained that the following items are necessary to de-list a property:

1. Before & after pictures of the property.
2. Brief statement of what happened at that property to cause de-listing.
3. Copy of the demolition permit.
4. Letter from the Historic Preservation Commission recommending de-listing of the property.

Discussion followed regarding the de-listing of 106 S Broadway Street. Gene Hackbarth moved, seconded by Mike Fleck, to recommend the de-listing of 106 S Broadway Street from the national and state registers. Before voting, City Planner Peter Schleinz reminded the HPC members that the agenda item was to discuss the de-listing process, not to actually de-list any specific properties. Since the owners of the properties were not notified in advance, he advised the members that they should wait to act on these items until the property owners have been properly notified. Both Scott Crevier and Gene Hackbarth agreed with this recommendation. Gene rescinded his earlier motion and Mike Fleck rescinded his second. Scott Crevier suggested that the three properties be put on the agenda as three separate agenda items at a future HPC meeting. Gene Hackbarth agreed with Scott's suggestion. Scott Crevier asked if staff could find out if the property at 520 N Michigan Street ever applied for tax credits before proceeding with their remodel project. City Planner Peter Schleinz agreed to look into it.

RESULT:	NO ACTION
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4. Discussion and possible action regarding the review of photographs of a building at 106 S. Broadway Street that was condemned and torn down after a fire in April 2019.

Due to technical difficulties, the photographs of the building at 106 S Broadway Street were not able to be viewed. Scott Crevier suggested that the HPC review the photographs of 106 S Broadway Street in conjunction with the de-listing discussion at a future HPC meeting. The rest of the commission members were in agreement.

RESULT:	NO ACTION
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5. Future Agenda Items.

There were no other future agenda items to discuss.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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Adjournment

Scott Crevier moved, seconded by Gene Hackbarth, to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 PM. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Barker



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Historic Preservation Commission Action

MEETING DATE: December 16, 2019

DEPARTMENT: Planning

FROM: Peter Schleinz

SUBJECT: Discussion and possible action regarding changes made by the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (Public Law 115-97), related to transfers of Wisconsin's supplemental to the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit.

Presentation to be made by Chair Mike Fleck regarding transfers of Wisconsin's supplemental to the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit (see attachment).

RECOMMENDATION: Review the attached email and discuss the tax credit changes. The public oftentimes reaches out to HPC members regarding this topic so the change needs to be understood by all members.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Wisconsin Tax Bulletin 207 - November 2019 (PDF)

Mike -- You May Want to Know About This

From: Mark Reinhart (m.reinhart085@gmail.com)

To: michael-fleck@att.net

Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2019, 03:24 PM CST

Wisconsin Tax Bulletin 207 – November 2019

Transfers of Wisconsin's Supplement to the Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit

Notice of Certification Letter Revised and Schedule HR-5 Created

Changes made by the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (Public Law 115-97) require the Wisconsin supplement to the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit to be claimed ratably over a five-year period beginning with the year the building is placed in service, unless the transition rule applies.

The transition rule allows the full credit to be claimed for qualified rehabilitation expenditures incurred on a building owned or leased at all times on or after January 1, 2018, if the taxpayer selects the 24 or 60-month measuring period by June 20, 2018.

As a result of the law change, claimants may only transfer the amount of the credit claimed on the claimant's tax return for each year (i.e., one-fifth of the credit each year unless the transition rule applies). However, Schedule HR-5, Wisconsin Supplement to the Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit – Five Year Credit Claim, allows a transferor to claim all five years of the historic tax credit on one form (separate from the tax return) for the purpose of selling or transferring the credit. Schedule HR-5 eliminates the need for the transferor to claim one-fifth of the credit on Schedule HR of each tax return for five years. The claimant must submit Form HR-T, Transfer of Supplement to the Federal Historic Rehabilitation Credit, along with Schedule HR-5 to request to transfer the credit.

Upon receipt and approval of Schedule HR-5 and Form HR-T, the department will issue a Notice of Certification letter indicating the total amount of credit transferred and the total amount eligible to be used by the transferee for each taxable year.

See: <https://www.revenue.wi.gov/WisconsinTaxBulletin/207-11-19-WTB.pdf>



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Historic Preservation Commission Action

MEETING DATE: December 16, 2019

DEPARTMENT: Planning

FROM: Peter Schleinz

SUBJECT: Discussion and possible action regarding the procedure for de-listing properties that are state and federally recognized as historic.

Presentation to be made by Gene Hackbarth. This is a continuation of the topic discussed by the HPC during the September 16 HPC meeting. The goal is to setup a timeline for HPC members to facilitate outreach and begin formal actions to de-list properties that have been demolished or destroyed by fire, etc., including 106 S. Broadway.

As was published in the September 16, 2019 meeting packet, the following de-listing information was obtained from the National Register Coordinator:

"Basically, we need photo documentation that the building is demolished and a brief paragraph explaining what happened to the building is also helpful. A signed demolition permit should be included. The remodeled residential building: I'm not sure about de-listing. It depends on the building and what has been done to it. Before and after photos are important. Please let me know if you have any other questions
Peggy Veregine, National Register Coordinator"

RECOMMENDATION: HPC should establish a list of properties for de-listing in 2020, establish a proposed timeline to start and complete the task (keep in mind that an unrelated grant project will keep the HPC & staff busy during parts of 2020), establish a time and method for HPC members to reach out to property owners for each proposed de-listing prior to formal action at an HPC meeting.



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Historic Preservation Commission Action

MEETING DATE: December 16, 2019

DEPARTMENT: Planning

FROM: Peter Schleinz

SUBJECT: Discussion and possible action regarding a request to consider the nomination and designation of three properties as local historic structures and or sites in year 2020.

Presentation to be made to the HPC by Ald. Jonathan Hansen, who suggests considering the following properties:

- * 380 Main Avenue (former library, now an office building)
- * 416 George Street (former post office, now a multi-unit office building)
- * 200 N. Broadway Street (Union Hotel)

HISTORY: This topic is not new to the HPC members. Actively seeking additional local designations was a project to be considered following the completion of the State & Federal Designation of two additional historic neighborhoods in 2020.

RECOMMENDATION: Discuss Ald. Hansen's suggested properties, including identifying if the properties should be considered before other properties in the Survey. Discuss a timeline for start and proposed completion of the project (keep in mind an unrelated grant project that will be facilitated in 2020). Discuss method for Ald Hansen and the HPC members to reach out to individual property owners. Discuss the requirements for a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) to be able to share with property owners that are interested in becoming locally designated.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Memo - Local Historical Register (PDF)
- WHS - Old De Pere Library (PDF)
- Old Library - Info on City Website (PDF)
- Old Library - National Register Form (PDF)
- WHS - Old Post Office (PDF)
- Info on Old Post Office (PDF)
- WHS - Union Hotel (PDF)



Alderman Jonathon Hansen – District 2

(920) 425-4265; jhansen@mail.de-pere.org

Memo Re: Potentially Adding Buildings to the Local Historical Register

I was surprised to learn earlier this year that although there are numerous properties in De Pere listed on the State and National Historical Registers, there are only three properties currently listed on the Local Historical Register. Those properties are the following:

- White Pillars: 403 N Broadway Street (originally built in 1836)
- Polo-Resto Service Station: 201 William Street (originally built in 1925)
- James Harbridge House: 503 Fulton Street (originally built in 1867)

Although the Historical Preservation Commission (HPC) has the authority to unilaterally add a property to the Local Historical Register, working collaboratively with the property owner is obviously ideal, especially given that inclusion on the Local Historical Register requires a property owner to obtain a “Certificate of Appropriateness” from the HPC before proceeding with any future building alterations.

I respectfully request that the HPC consider prioritizing the addition of more properties to the Local Historical Register in 2020. In speaking with City Planner Peter Schleinz, he recommends selecting three properties to focus on in 2020. This would double the number of properties on the Local Historical Register, while at the same time providing staff with a manageable workload.

Although I would defer to the HPC’s judgment on this, three properties that immediately come to mind as being potentially ideal targets for 2020 are the following:

- Old De Pere Public Library: 380 Main Ave (originally built in 1937)
- Old Post Office: 416 George St (originally built in 1941)
- Union Hotel: 200 N. Broadway St (originally built in 1883)

Additional information regarding each of these properties is included in the agenda packet. If the HPC decides to prioritize adding these properties to the Local Historical Register, I would respectfully ask that the HPC, working in conjunction with staff, reach out to the individual property owners, provide them with information about the Local Historical Register, and encourage them to apply for inclusion on the Local Historical Register.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.



BROWSE

ABOUT

EVENTS

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NATIONAL OR STATE REGISTERS RECORD

380 Main Avenue

National or State Register of Historic Places

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NAMES

Historic Name: **De Pere Public Library**Reference Number: **02001106**

PROPERTY LOCATION

Location (Address): **380 Main Avenue**County: **Brown**City/Village: **De Pere**

Township:

SUMMARY

De Pere Public Library

380 Main Avenue, De Pere, Brown County

Architect: Foeller, Schober & Berners

Date of Construction: 1937

The Great Depression of the 1930s was a period of enormous growth for public facilities due to federally funded work-relief programs. The De Pere Public Library was built through the assistance of the Public Works Administration, which aided the construction of public buildings such as schools, post offices and libraries.

Foeller, Schober & Berners, a regionally prominent firm out of Green Bay, designed the library in a Tudor Revival manner, commonly called "Cotswold Style." This style is typically used in residential buildings and therefore lends the building a domestic feel found in many small town public libraries. The library represents all of the characteristics of the Tudor Revival style. This is shown through a steeply sloped roof that has a cross-gable to accentuate the front façade and main entrance. The entrance is recessed into an arched opening. Tudor Revival also includes the use of massive chimneys and tall, narrow windows with small panes. The slate-covered roof and locally quarried limestone used on the exterior of the building was a distinctive building practice in the Cotswold region of England.

The library also includes Classical Revival characteristics, a mix that was typical of 1930s period revival architecture. A classical denticulated entablature surmounts the entrance door and is topped with a semi-circular arched fanlight. The one story structure was originally designed in an L-plan but an additional wing was added to form a U-plan that encloses a central courtyard.

The building of the library played an important role as the first and only purpose-built home of the city's public library. Prior to this location the library was housed above the firehouse and served as a private facility for the Young Men's Reading Association until 1896. It is now located in the heart of the commercial development in downtown De Pere.

PROPERTY FEATURES

Period of Significance:**1937-1952**
Area of Significance:**Architecture**
Area of Significance:**Education**
Applicable Criteria:**Architecture/Engineering**
Applicable Criteria:**Event**
Historic Use:**Education: Library**
Architectural Style:**Tudor Revival**
Resource Type:**Building**
Architect:**Foeller, Schober and Berners**

DESIGNATIONS

Historic Status:**Listed in the National Register**
Historic Status:**Listed in the State Register**
National Register Listing Date:**10/04/2002**
State Register Listing Date:**04/15/2002**

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY

Number of Contributing Buildings:**1**
Number of Contributing Sites:**0**
Number of Contributing Structures:**0**
Number of Contributing Objects:**0**
Number of Non-Contributing Sites:**0**
Number of Non-Contributing Structures:**0**
Number of Non-Contributing Objects:**0**

RECORD LOCATION

National Register and State Register of Historic Places, Division of Historic Preservation,
Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin

De Pere Public Library

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3. [De Pere Public Library](#)



History:

The Great Depression of the 1930s was a period of enormous growth for public facilities due to federally funded work-relief programs. The De Pere Public Library was built through the assistance of the Public Works Administration, which aided the construction of public buildings such as schools, post offices, and libraries.



Foeller, Schober & Berners, a regionally prominent firm out of Green Bay, designed the library and it was erected in 1936 but because of some delays it wasn't opened until 1937. The library was designed in a Tudor Revival manner, commonly called "Cotswold Style". This style is typically used in residential buildings and therefore lends the building a domestic feel found in many small town public libraries. The library represents all of the characteristics of the Tudor Revival style. This is shown through a steeply sloped roof that has a cross-gable to accentuate the front facade and main entrance. The entrance is recessed into an arched opening. Tudor Revival also includes the use of massive chimneys and tall, narrow windows with small panes. The slate-covered roof and locally quarried limestone used on the exterior of the building was a distinctive building practice in the Cotswold region of England.



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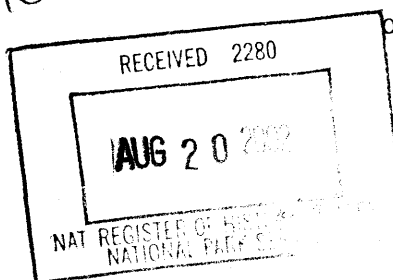
The building of the library played an important role as the first and only purpose-built home of the city's public library. Prior to this location the library was housed above the firehouse and served as a private facility for the Young Men's Reading Association until 1896. It is now located in the heart of the commercial development in downtown De Pere.



NPS Form 10-900
(January 1992)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



OMB No. 10024-0018

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name De Pere Public Library
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number	380 Main Avenue	N/A	not for publication
city or town	De Pere	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Brown	code 9
			zip code 54114

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Attachment: Old Library - National Register Form (9017 : Discussion and possible action regarding a request to consider the nomination and

De Pere Public Library

Brown

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined eligible for the National Register.☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.☐ See continuation sheet.☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain:)*Edson H. Beall**10/4/02**for*

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**
(check as many boxes as apply)☐ private☒ public-local☐ public-State☐ public-Federal**Category of Property**
(Check only one box)☒ building(s)☐ district☐ structure☐ site☐ object**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

contributing noncontributing

1 0 buildings

sites

structures

objects

1 0 total

Name of related multiple property listing:

(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property listing.)

Public Library Facilities of Wisconsin

Number of contributing resources

is previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/library

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Tudor Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Concrete

walls Limestone

roof Slate

other Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section 7 Page 1DePere Public Library
De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin**DESCRIPTION:**

The Great Depression of the 1930s was also, paradoxically, a period of enormous growth for public works projects throughout the nation, thanks largely to the funding provided by the National Industrial Recovery Act (NRA), the Work Progress Administration (WPA), the Public Works Administration (PWA), and numerous other federally funded work initiatives. Among the most commonly encountered legacies of these projects are schools, post offices, and public libraries, many of which, thanks again to the federal funding involved, were of a size and a quality that their communities could not otherwise have afforded. An excellent case in point is the superb DePere Public Library, which was built in 1936 and opened to the public in early 1937. The building is a modern interpretation of the English Cottage subtype of the Tudor Revival style. This building was designed by the distinguished architectural firm of Foeller, Schober, and Berners, located in the nearby city of Green Bay, it was built by Sam Clark of De Pere, and it is still the only building in De Pere that has ever been built specifically to house the city's public library.¹

The De Pere Public Library is located in West De Pere on a gently sloping four-lot parcel that forms the entire west end of the block of which it is a part, this parcel being bordered by Main Avenue to the south, N. Fourth St. to the west, and an alley behind to the north. The library occupies most of this parcel and it is surrounded by lawn and well clipped shrubs, and it is shaded by several maturing trees. The library is a one-story structure that rests on a full basement story, the north-facing rear elevation of which is partially exposed, because of the slope of the lot. The foundation walls and the basement story's floor are poured concrete while all the exterior walls that rest on these foundations are clad in a beautifully wrought veneer of a locally quarried limestone that is called Scray stone. Sheltering these walls is the building's multi-gable roof, which is completely covered in slate and is edged with copper gutters and downspouts. The asymmetrical main facade of the library's main block faces south onto Main Avenue, the principal commercial thoroughfare on the west side of the Fox River in De Pere, and it is dominated by the building's large gable-roofed main entrance vestibule wing, which is placed at a right angle to the facade. A large wing extends from the rear (north-facing) elevation of this main block and another wing, built in 1963 in the same style and with the same materials, extends west from the end of this wing. The resulting building now has a U-plan and its three wings partially enclose a well-landscaped courtyard whose open end faces west onto N. Fourth St.

The design of the library is a variant of the Tudor Revival style that is sometimes called "English Cottage Revival" or "Cotswold Style" because of the debt that it owes to the authentic English cottages that influenced it. Partly this is due to the materials used, the broken coursed limestone walls and the sheltering slate-covered roof being typical of real building practices in the Cotswolds part of England.

¹ *De Pere Journal Democrat*. January 28, 1937, p. 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

DePere Public Library
 De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin

Other elements that contribute to the overall affect include the one-story height and asymmetrical design of the building, the use of grouped multi-light windows throughout the building, and the use of massive stone chimney stacks to service the library's two fireplaces and its main heating plant. These elements and the small, charming courtyard that the public rooms of the library look out onto all contrive to give the building a look and a feel that is more domestic than public, characteristics that were further reinforced by the design of the interior spaces.

Exterior

As originally built (before the addition of the new children's room wing in 1963), the library had an L-plan consisting of the 54-foot long rectilinear plan main block, whose principal facade faces south onto Main Avenue, and a 22x28-foot rectilinear plan wing attached to the rear (north-facing) elevation of the main block that contained the library's original children's wing. The asymmetrical design of the main block's principal facade is better understood if one understands the interior layout behind it. Reading from left (west) to right (east) the interior spaces consist of a small reference reading room, a larger main reading room, a central checkout area, and finally, a stack area. These elements are each distinguishable on the exterior of the building as well. The principal feature of the Main Avenue facade is the large gable-roofed entrance vestibule wing that is placed to the right of center and in front of the checkout area inside. This wing contains the library's small main entrance hall in its center and two bathrooms are placed on either side of this hall, hence the somewhat large size of the vestibule. The centered main entrance is at ground level and consists of a tall semi-circular-arched opening whose arched portion is outlined by stone voussoirs that blend almost imperceptibly into the broken coursed wall surface surrounding it. The actual entrance is deeply inset into this wall and consists of a two-light over four-panel wood entrance door that is surmounted by a classically derived denticulated entablature. Placed above the entablature is a semi-circular-arched fanlight, whose lights are held in place with lead comes, and these elements are all set into the paneled wood inner wall. Flanking the entrance opening are two original copper and frosted glass wall sconces. In addition, both the east and west-facing side elevations of the entrance wing each have a single narrow four-over-four-light double hung wood sash window centered on them whose head pierces the eave of the roof and is placed in a small wall dormer.

The main wall surface to the right of the entrance wing contains a pair of flat-arched openings that are filled with six-over-six-light double hung wood sash windows that are separated from each other by a wide stone mullion and these windows provide light for the stack area inside. The main wall surface to the left of the entrance wing is both longer and taller than the portion to the right and it is two-bays-wide. The first bay from the left consists of a pair of flat-arched openings that are filled with six-over-six-light double hung wood sash windows that are separated from each other by a narrow stone

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 3

DePere Public Library
 De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin

mullion and that each have a three-light transom placed above them. These windows provide light for the reference room inside. The second bay from the left is wider than the other and consists of a single large flat-arched opening that is filled with a triple window group consisting of a pair of six-over-six-light double hung wood sash windows that each have a three-light transom above them and which flank a fixed twenty-light window that has a five-light transom above. Each of these windows is separated from the others in the group by narrow stone mullions and the entire group provides light for the main reading room inside. Placed high on the wall surface between the two window groups is a dressed stone tablet on which is inscribed the words "De Pere Public Library," and placed on the ridge of the main roof of this block in a position that centers it above the main entrance door is a small octagonal wood cupola that is surmounted by a concave octagonal metal roof crowned by a working metal weather vane.

The east-facing side elevation of the library consists of two principal parts, the east end of the main block (south) and the deeply inset east elevation of the original children's wing (north). The east end of the main block is crowned by the jerkinhead gable end of the main block's roof and it is one bay in width, this bay consisting of a centrally positioned, oblong, five-window group that is placed high on the wall and which provides light for the stack room inside. This group consists of five paired six-light metal sash casement windows that are filled with wire glass lights. The east side elevation of the original children's wing, meanwhile, has three separate six-over-six-light double hung wood sash windows placed at its north end and there is a massive stone-clad chimney mass positioned on the ridge of the roof above these windows. The left-hand window of these three windows helps light the children's wing while the other two light a room located at the north end of this wing that was originally devoted to book storage. Placed in the juncture of the two principal elements of this elevation just described is a small 12x16-foot, limestone-clad, shed-roofed ell that contains the librarian's office. Two flat-arched window openings that each contain a pair of eight-light metal sash casement windows surmounted by a three-light metal sash transom are positioned on the east-facing elevation of this ell, while the ell's north-facing elevation contains a single window of the same design.

The north-facing rear elevation of the library differs from the building's other elevations in that the slight downward sloping of the parcel to the north partially exposes this elevation's basement story. This elevation also consists of two principal parts, the north end of the original children's wing to the left (east) and the slightly inset and wider north elevation of the 1963 children's wing to the right (west). The basement story of the original wing is two bays wide, the left-hand bay being a small oblong three-light window while the right-hand bay consists of a flat-arched entrance door opening that is filled with a steel door and which is accessed by a short flight of concrete steps that lead down to it from the alley behind the library. The first story of this wing contains two six-over-six-light

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 4

DePere Public Library
De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin

double hung wood sash windows that help light what was originally the book storage room inside and the wing is crowned by the clipped gable end of the wing's gable roof.

The north-facing rear elevation of the 1963 children's wing is three bays wide. The three bays of the first story each consist of an oblong opening that is filled with three six-light wood sash windows. These first story window groups are positioned high up on the wall and they help light the children's reading and activity room inside. The two left-hand bays also have an oblong two-light modern window placed in their basement story level. In addition, a narrow stone-clad buttress that has a small square opening filled with a ventilator placed close to its top is located at the extreme right-hand (west) end of this wing.

The west-facing side elevation of the library consists of a small three-sided courtyard that is formed by the west end of the 1963 children's wing, the west side elevation of the original children's wing, and the west end of the main block. The west end of the 1963 children's wing is symmetrical in design and three-bays-wide. The center bay consists of a separate entrance that is accessed by a short flight of concrete steps. This flat-arched entrance opening contains a single six-light over four-panel wood entrance door that is flanked on either side by four-light side lights. Also flanking the entrance are a pair of copper and frosted glass wall sconces that are identical to the ones that flank the main library entrance on the main facade. The two other bays each contain a four-over-four-light double hung wood sash window and the tip of the gable end of this elevation is crowned by a small triangular wooden ventilator. The south-facing side elevation of this wing forms one of the three sides of the courtyard and it is three-bays-wide with each bay consisting of a three groups of triple six-over-six-light double hung wood sash windows that light the children's reading and activity room inside.

The west end of the main block's sole feature is the massive, stepped, stone-clad chimney mass that is centered on it. This chimney mass extends from the ground up to and above the ridge of the main roof and it serves the fireplace in the reference room. The north-facing side elevation of this wing forms another of the three sides of the courtyard and the first bay from the right consists of a pair of flat-arched openings that are filled with six-over-six-light double hung wood sash windows that are separated from each other by a narrow stone mullion and that each have a three-light transom placed above them. These windows provide light for the reference room inside. The second bay from the right is wider than the other and consists of single large flat-arched opening that is filled with a triple window group consisting of a pair of six-over-six-light double hung wood sash windows that each have a three-light transom above them and which flank a fixed twenty-light window that has a five-light transom above. Each of these windows is separated from the others in the group by narrow stone mullions and the entire group provides light for the main reading room inside.

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The west side elevation of the original children's wing is the shortest of the three sides of the courtyard and it is three-bays-wide and is dominated by the three-sided polygonal bay that is centered on it and that makes up the center bay. The central window of this bay faces west and consists of a fixed twenty-light flat-arched wood sash window that is surmounted by a five-light transom. The two sides of the bay each have a six-over-six-light double hung wood sash window centered on them that is surmounted by a three-light transom. An identical window and transom is placed in the left-hand (north) bay located to the left of the bay window while the right-hand bay located to the right of the bay window contains an entrance door opening. This opening contains a six-light over four-panel wood door that is surmounted by a three-light wood transom, above which is a second three-light wood transom. All of these windows and the door open into the original children's reading room.

Interior

When the De Pere Public Library was first opened to the public in January of 1937, a local newspaper gave the following capsule summary of the interior, which is still an accurate description nearly 65 years later.

The main floor is set at the grade line, and is occupied by a main reading room, 22 by 26 feet; stack room, on the east side, 28 by 18 feet; children's room on the north, 22 by 28 feet; reference room, on the west side, 12 by 21 feet; librarian's office, 12 by 16 feet; and two toilets, on either side of the entrance. One rear room is used for filing books used in rural schools.

Walls of the building are plastered, and sound-absorbing board, for acoustical corrections, is used on the ceiling. The floor is an asphaltic tile.²

The only change that has taken place since that writing has been the construction of a new children's room in 1963, which was attached to the north end of the original west-facing elevation of the original children's room wing. The original children's room then became another reading room.

The principal entrance is on the Main Avenue facade and one passes through the entrance door into a small rectilinear plan entrance vestibule that has a floor covered in small ceramic art tiles and walls that are clad in brown brick up to the level of the springing line of the room's semi-circular arched vaulted ceiling, which is plastered. Placed on either side of this vestibule are the men's and women's bathrooms, each of which has a single window placed on its outside wall. Both of these rooms have

² *De Pere Journal-Democrat*. January 28, 1937, p. 1.

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floors covered in small art tiles and their walls are covered in tan ceramic tiles up to level of the heads of the windows, above which both they and the ceiling are plastered.

One then passes through a fifteen-light oak entrance door into the checkout area, which is located between the main reading room area to the left (west) and the stack area to the right (east). In actuality, all three of these elements are parts of a single long room that is divided into three distinct areas by different shelving units and other types of furniture. The checkout area contains a pair of fixed charging desks that are paneled in stained oak while to the right is the stack area, which contains six tall, freestanding, stained oak book stacks and other equally tall oak shelving units that are placed against the walls that surround the stack area portion of the room. Located to the left of the checkout area is the reading room area, which has a more informal mix of freestanding shelves and ones attached to the walls, the freestanding ones of which are later additions to the room. Throughout these three areas all the original asphaltic tile floors are now carpeted except for the stack area, where the original floor tiles are still visible, baseboards and the original shelving units are stained oak, and walls are plastered and are crowned with a thin, painted crown molding. The ceilings are still covered in their original Cellotex acoustical tiles and these are of special interest because of the decorative way in which they were laid. First, the ceiling is divided into several large, slightly sunken square panels that are completely clad in Cellotex tiles. It is then edged with a continuous band of five-sided tiles that create a chevron-like design, and in addition, octagonal tiles of this kind were also used as the bases from which the original hanging pendant lights that lit this room were hung. Many of these lights have since been replaced with later fluorescent fixtures but all fourteen of the original pendant lights that originally illuminated the stack area have survived and are still in use. These pendants each have a round metal canopy that is centered on one of the octagonal tiles, a long metal chain hangs down from the canopy, and a ribbed, round, clear glass shade is placed at the end of the chain.

Placed at the west end of the reading room area and separated from it by a plaster-covered partition wall is the smaller reference room, which is reached by passing through a centered, segmental-arched opening that is closed with a pair of still extant and operable sliding, paneled, stained oak pocket doors. Centered on the west wall of this room opposite the entrance doors is a working fireplace of classically derived design that has a brick surround and a painted, denticulated wood mantelpiece. Flanking both the entrance door and the fireplace are shallow arched alcoves that are filled with shelving, while windows are placed on both the north and south walls.

Placed directly opposite the main entrance door on the north wall of the reading room/checkout area is a very wide segmental-arched opening into to original children's room. This room has a carpeted floor, plastered walls, and a Cellotex-covered ceiling, and its most distinctive original features are the large three-sided bay window that is centered on its west wall, which bay has a paneled oak window

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seat placed below it that also contains radiators and their associated ventilating grills, and a small fireplace that is centered on the room's north wall opposite the main entrance. This working fireplace has a tile hearth, a segmental-arched opening that contains its original cast iron grate, a stone surround, and a small oak mantel that is supported by three small brackets and is placed on the wall surface above it. Flanking the fireplace on both sides are shallow segmental-arched alcoves, the one on the right (east) containing shelving and the one on the left the door opening that leads to a rear hall and to the 1963 children's wing.

This rear hall is also plastered and placed directly opposite the door that opens into the old children's room is a paneled half door that is placed at the head of a staircase that descend to the building's basement story. Placed just to the right of this staircase on the north wall of the hall is a six-light paneled oak door that opens into the room that was originally used for filing the books used in rural schools but which is now used as a work room and for storage. This room too has plastered walls and a ceiling covered in Cellotex tiles and it is still illuminated by its five original hanging pendant lights, each of which has a frosted glass bowl.

Both the interior and the exterior design of the De Pere Public Library are very fine examples of their period and style and the library's significance is further enhanced by its highly intact state and by the excellent maintenance that it has received. The only significant change that has affected the building since its original construction has been the 1963 construction of the children's wing addition. However, this wing was built out of the same materials and in the same style as the original and its construction also served to create the courtyard that is now one of the library's most attractive features, a feature that may possibly have been an unrealized part of the original design.

De Pere Public Library
Name of Property

Brown
County and State

Wisconsin

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Education

Period of Significance

1937

1937-1952

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Foeller, Schober and Berners

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin**SIGNIFICANCE:**

The De Pere Public Library building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for its local significance under National Register (NR) Criterion C. More specifically, the Library is being nominated because of its associations with the NR significance area of Architecture, a theme that is also identified in the State of Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP).³ Research centered on evaluating this building using the Tudor Revival style subsection of the Architectural Styles study unit of the CRMP's Architecture Theme section and the Libraries subsection of the CRMP's Education Theme section. The results of this research is detailed below and confirms that the De Pere Public Library building is locally significant under criterion C as a highly intact and extremely well designed modern variant of "English Cottage" or "Cotswold Revival" design as applied to a small size city library building of the day. The building is also eligible under NR Criterion A in the area of Education for its historically important role as the first (and only) purpose-built home of the city of De Pere's public library. The registration requirements for such resources are embodied in the Multiple Property Listing for the Public Library Facilities of Wisconsin. This listing further specifies that the interior of such a building must retain a considerable degree of integrity. This is a requirement that the De Pere Public Library, which has served continuously as De Pere's only public library building since it was first opened to the public in 1937, can easily fulfill. In addition, the construction of the De Pere Public Library was also partially funded by the FERA and PWA programs, and it was nationally recognized as an excellent example of the projects produced under the auspices of this and other Depression-era public works programs.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The downtown core of West De Pere developed because of its location adjacent to the west end of the bridges that have spanned the Fox River at this point since 1851 and which unite the communities of West De Pere on the west bank of the river and De Pere on the east bank. Proximity to the Fox River was the critical factor in the establishment of both of these communities. The mouth of the Fox River empties into Green Bay and Lake Michigan and De Pere is located 3½ miles south of this mouth at a place on the river where sizable rapids made further navigation upstream impossible in the early 1800s. This was also a time when shipping on nearby Lake Michigan was the only reliable means of transporting large quantities of goods and large numbers of people to and from this area in the period before adequate overland roads and later, railroads, were developed. Consequently, that portion of the river between these rapids and Lake Michigan gradually developed into an important Great Lakes port.

³ Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Madison: State Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986. Vol. 3, pp. 5-1 - 5-12 (Education).

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Even more important, though, was the fact that the rapids of the Fox River at De Pere was the most important potential source of water power in the area in the 1840s-1860s and was thus the logical place for the construction of a dam and of saw mills and flour and grist mills and other industries that could make use of water for power and manufacturing.

The combination of transportation access and water power brought success to the De Pere communities on both sides of the rapids and this led in turn to the development of roads extending out to outlying areas that were in need of the resources that De Pere had to offer. One of the most important of these roads on the west bank of the river was Main Avenue. What made this particular east-west-running road especially important was that it continued east across the Fox River to De Pere on the east bank via the first bridge in the entire Green Bay area that spanned the river. Built in 1851, this bridge and its successors were the only bridges in the entire area that crossed the river for some years thereafter, so the land near the bridge site on both sides of the river quickly evolved into the places where commercial activities occurred. The importance of the West De Pere end of the bridge and of Main Avenue was still further enhanced in 1862 when the first railroad to extend north into this region from Chicago. The Chicago & NorthWestern Railroad was constructed up the west bank of the river and past West De Pere on its way to Fort Howard at the river's mouth. Not surprisingly, the place where these tracks crossed Main Avenue became another natural focus for commercial development and further anchored the commercial district growing up along Main Avenue.

The De Pere Public Library is located in the heart of West De Pere's commercial district, which extends for three blocks along both sides of Main Avenue from the west end of today's Claude Allouez Bridge (1932) to the still active Chicago & NorthWestern railroad tracks. Land within this six block stretch is mostly flat except along its east and north edges, both of which slope down gradually to the river, but access to the north shoreline behind the library is completely blocked by the enormous bulk of the De Pere plant of the International Paper Co. (200 Main Ave.), which stretches for almost three full blocks along the shoreline from the bridge westward.

Historically, Main Avenue has always been the busiest, most important thoroughfare in West De Pere and the portion within the commercial district is still lined with the major commercial establishments that are associated with this part of the city, including its banks and stores. The buildings within the commercial district that now line this street date from the 1870s to the present and several of the more important architectural styles and vernacular forms that were developed during this broad span of years can be seen in their designs. These buildings range from one to three stories in height, they are mostly clad in masonry, and they are positioned with their principal elevations flush with the sidewalks and with their side elevations abutting one another. Although many of the older buildings that once fronted on this street have now been demolished, many others are still extant, the most intact grouping

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being the eighteen buildings on the south side of the 300 block directly across from the library that comprise the proposed Main Avenue Historic District. The almost completely intact De Pere Public Library is something of an anomaly on Main Avenue because it is the only building in the commercial district built prior to World War II that was designed from the onset to be freestanding.

Planning for the De Pere Public Library was begun in late 1934, construction began in 1935 and the building was completed at the end of 1936, and it was opened to the public on January 25, 1937.⁴ Since 1900, the collections of the De Pere Public Library had been housed in the second story of the West De Pere Fire Engine House (111-113 S. Fourth St., non-extant). The library, which had been founded in 1888, had never been housed in a building designed solely for its own use until the opening of this building. Thus it is not surprising that by 1934, the library's staff was finding itself to be severely handicapped in its ability to meet the needs of local patrons. The completion of the new library building in 1937 was therefore an important milestone in the educational life of the city and the library continues to be an important institution in the educational and cultural life of the city to this day. The construction of the new library was also an architecturally significant event for De Pere because its prominent location made it an instantaneous local landmark on the west side of the river. This building was designed by the regionally important Green Bay architectural firm of Foeller, Schober, and Berners, and the builder was Sam D. Clark of De Pere. Fifty-five percent of the funding for the library, which cost approximately \$33,000.00, was provided by the city, the other forty-five percent by the PWA.

Education

A general history of the city of De Pere and its buildings is included in the recently published *City of De Pere Intensive Survey Report*, and the history of the De Pere Public Library from its founding in 1888 up until 1968 has been exhaustively researched and chronicled in two excellent, highly detailed masters theses published in 1978 and 1985, copies of which are available at the Brown County Public Library in Green Bay and at the De Pere Historical Society.⁵ Consequently, the history that follows will not repeat what has already been written except as is necessary to place the library building into its historic local context.

⁴ *De Pere Journal-Democrat*, January 28, 1937, p. 1.

⁵ Heggland, Timothy F. *City of De Pere Intensive Survey Report*. De Pere: City of De Pere Historic Preservation Commission, 2001. See also: Marian Racine Koss, *The Establishment of the De Pere Public Library, 1888-1896*. Oshkosh: University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, December, 1978; and Michael C. Vande Hei, *History of the De Pere Public Library, 1896-1968*. Oshkosh: University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, January, 1985

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The founding of the De Pere Public Library was preceded by the establishment of its collections, which were begun in September 26, 1888 when 31 De Pere women signed the constitution of an organization whose purpose was to found a reading room for boys and young men in De Pere. At that time the city of De Pere had a population of 2,149 but there was no place in the city other than private libraries where reading materials could be obtained and no place where the general public could avail themselves of such materials. It was to fill this need that the organization mentioned above was begun and its collection consisted at first of reading materials donated by and to this group. The first home of the Young Men and Boy's Reading Room Association of De Pere was in a rented room above John Steckart's meat market (non-extant) on the east side of the river and funds to maintain it were raised by suppers and concerts sponsored and run by the ladies who had organized the Association.

As noted above, most of the books in De Pere at this time were in the private libraries of individuals that were inaccessible to the general public. There was one exception, however, the private library formed by the Rev. E. P. Salmon, pastor of the De Pere Congregational Church, which he had made accessible to members of his congregation in 1878 and which was kept in the church parlor. This library began with a collection of 250 books, but its numbers steadily increased over the years and the collection was subsequently moved to other quarters, the restriction of church membership was removed, and a fee of \$1.00 per year was charged instead for user privileges.

In January 14, 1889, the board of the Young Men's Reading Room Association voted to move their collection to a more fireproof building, while at the same time the Trustees of the Congregational Church offered the loan of the much larger Salmon Collection to the board, which at that time comprised some 1,300 books. This offer was unanimously accepted and was followed by a joint agreement between the two boards that gave each board partial control and partial responsibility for the collection. The combined collection was then moved to new quarters in a room on the second floor of the Jackson and Son Building (non-extant), which was located on the northwest corner of George Street and Broadway, again on the east side of the river. The collection remained here until 1895, when the indebtedness that the Reading Room Association had acquired in the course of operating the Reading Room made it necessary to return the collection, which still belonged to the Trustees of the Congregational Church, to the Church under the original terms of the loan, which stipulated that the Association remain free from debt.

And yet, recurrent problems of financing and staffing notwithstanding, the need for such an institution had grown steadily since the Reading Room had been founded. By 1895, De Pere had a population of close to 4,000, almost double what it had been in 1888, and the demand for readily accessible reading materials was more deeply felt than ever. The upshot was that the Trustees of the church decided to give their library to the City of De Pere instead, which, in turn, agreed to house it in the City Council

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chambers above the East Side Fire Engine House, located at 206-208 N. Broadway (non-extant) and provide a fund for its maintenance. On January 27, 1896, the Council appointed a new nine member library board that was charged with the maintenance and care of the new public library and reading room. New bookcases were ordered, 3% of the city's liquor license fees was devoted to the purpose of creating a library fund, and the city clerk became the new city librarian for a salary of \$60.00 per year.

The new library, which consisted of 1,381 books, was opened to the public on April 11, 1896 and for the first time, the city of De Pere had a free public library.

Having the city of De Pere take over the library in 1896 had many advantages. Financing became dependent on the city council instead of the numerous fund raising projects of the women who kept the library alive. A hired, paid librarian replaced volunteers. The library hours were set and kept. More money became available to fulfill the early library board's worthy aim of constantly increasing the collection.⁶

The new library was an instant success and so great was the demand that on May 2, 1896 the board took the additional step of extending the privileges of the library to those living outside the city limits upon the prepayment of one dollar per year. By May of 1899, the library had nearly 2,000 books in its collection, but on May 19th the building that housed the library was almost totally destroyed by fire and the collection was heavily damaged. Insurance covered about half the loss and the reduced collection was then moved to second floor of the school building on the corner of James and N. Wisconsin streets known as the Old Stone School (non-extant). While negotiations to create a permanent home for the library in the stone school house building were underway, fire struck again on February 20, 1900, further reducing the collection, although not doing as much damage as the first fire. The library board then accepted an offer from the City to move the collection across the river to the second story of the West Side Fire Engine House on S. Fourth Street, a decision that was greeted with enthusiasm by those living in West De Pere, who had not previously had a library facility on their side of the river.

The new quarters of the library were to be its home for the next 37 years, during which period the library and the services it offered would undergo a great transformation. Almost immediately after moving to the west side of the river, the library staff began a process of adding significantly to its specialized holdings and expanding the area it served. At this point the library supplied its patrons with books, periodicals and newspapers, and it also allowed teachers in community schools to

⁶ Koss, Marian Racine. *The Establishment of the De Pere Public Library, 1888-1896*. Oshkosh: University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, December, 1978, p. 31.

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checkout an unlimited number of books that they read themselves and also circulated to their students. In 1900, the beginnings of what would become a significant new collection of books written in Dutch was acquired to meet the needs of the many Dutch immigrants in the area and in 1903 a similar collection was started for German-speaking area residents. By the end of 1903, there were 1,115 registration cards in use, 2,840 books in the collection, and circulation for that year was 14,501. By 1910, the library was beginning to lend some of its Dutch language books to other Brown County communities, which was the start of what was to become an ever growing network of locations that the library served outside of the city of De Pere itself.

To deal with the limitations imposed by their modest quarters above the Fire Engine House, the library began to actively establish small informal branches and substations throughout the areas it served. To compensate for the fact that the east side of De Pere now no longer had its own library, a traveling library was established in the Women's Club lounge, which was located in the library's old quarters in the Jackson & Sons store on N. Broadway. Dutch language traveling libraries were also established in the town of Lawrence in Brown County, the village of Kimberly in neighboring Outagamie County, and as far south as the city of Waupun in Dodge County. By 1915, the library had 6,200 volumes, a circulation of 23,000, and an ever growing need for larger, modern, more suitable quarters.

In 1920, Helen Mathews, the library's tireless librarian, noted in her annual report that one rural teacher had checked out over 300 books on her teacher card, producing a drain on the number of books available for De Pere children, and she recommended that the Brown County Board appropriate money for library purposes to the library to alleviate the situation. In 1922, the board did so, beginning a history of county involvement in library activity that has lasted to this day. One result of this new source of income was the founding of affiliated rural substations. The first substation of the De Pere Public Library was established in a private home in the town of Shirley in January of 1924 and the next followed a month later in the school at Lark. By July of 1926, six such substations were in operation and by 1931 there were eleven, three in stores and eight in schoolhouses located throughout the county. At this time the De Pere library was serving 51 schools and 68 rural teachers and had a county circulation of 25,000 volumes, which was in addition to the more than 50,000 volumes that were circulated within De Pere itself.

By 1934, the need for a new and larger library facility in De Pere had become acute. The dreams of the library board were realized when the city council purchased the old Bingham & Risdon business block on the northeast corner of Main Avenue and N. Fourth Street for a cost of \$3000.

By October 18, 1934, George Eiler had been engaged to supervise the tearing down of the two-story Bingham & Risdon brick structure. His crew of twelve men were selected from the relief

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rolls and furnished through the FERA [Federal Emergency Relief Administration] administration offices at Green Bay.

By the end of October, the library building committee engaged the architectural firm of Foeller, Schober and Berners to submit plans and specifications for the new building. On October 31, the architectural firm met with the library board at the home of President Branson. The architects and library board met twice in November and decided to place the county room on the main floor, rather than the in the basement.

By the end of December 1934, the Bingham & Rison building had been razed, but the library building committee was faced with another problem. The quotations received for building the new library were all far in excess of the \$10,000 bond issue with which the committee had hoped to erect the building. Original proposed estimates indicated that if the total of \$20,000 were needed for the building, \$10,000 would cover the material cost and \$10,000, the cost of labor to be furnished by the FERA. The building committee was considering the proposition of carrying on building the library as a PWA (Public Works Administration) project, whereby the city would receive an outright grant of 30 percent toward the cost of construction. By July 11, 1935, a resolution was adopted authorizing the city to apply to the United States government for funds to build the De Pere Public Library. Not until October of that year was the federal grant approved for construction. The library cost totaled \$30,870, of which the federal government was to contribute \$13,981, and the city the balance.

Library construction bids were opened on November 7, 1935. The general contractor was Sam D. Clark. Final approval was received by the PWA on November 19, 1935. The excavation for the basement had been completed under the FERA program nearly a year earlier. The footings were poured and construction was underway to enclose the building before inclement weather set in. Forty-three hundred square feet of facing stone from the Scray quarries in East De Pere was required for the building, and fifty-three cords of rubble stone was used for the basement.

The construction of the library was completed, inspected, and formally accepted by the De Pere City Council in May of 1937. Because of delays in the shipment of equipment, the new De Pere Public Library was not opened to the public until January 23, 1937. ... For the first time in over forty years, the De Pere Public Library had a building of its own...⁷

⁷ Vande Hei, Michael C., *History of the De Pere Public Library, 1896-1968*. Oshkosh: University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, January, 1985, pp. 45-47.

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With its new and much larger building in service, the library's board and Helen Mathews were now able to significantly expand the services they offered. In this they were helped by the county board, which gave them \$1370 in 1937 for the furnishing of the county room in the library. This room was used for supplying materials to the county substations and for checking out material by county patrons; all materials in this room were purchased with county funds. The importance of the De Pere-Brown County relationship over the years would be difficult to overestimate. In the fifteen years between 1924, when the relationship began, and 1939, the total county collection had increased from a few hundred books to 7,735, locations of adult collections in the county had increased from two substations to twenty-one, 81 teachers in the county were now utilizing the resources of the library, and total county circulation was 51,000, a number that nearly equaled that generated by the patrons in the city of De Pere.⁸ When Helen Mathews retired in 1954 after 54 years as the De Pere Public Library's head librarian, the library had grown from a collection of 2,000 books when she began, to over 41,000, a collection that she had also made accessible to almost all the residents of the county. Mathews had also been instrumental in the planning and construction of the present De Pere Public Library building and in seeing that De Pere had library facilities that were equal to its needs during a period when the city's population grew from 4,038 in 1900 to 8,146 in 1950.

Nine years later, in 1963, the library added a new children's wing on to the old one, which gave the city's children a better space of their own while significantly increasing the size of the space that was available to rest of the library's patrons. Later in the same year, discussions also began regarding the desirability of the De Pere Public Library joining in the creation of a county-wide library system. After four years of debate and numerous public hearings, a decision was made in favor of this proposal and in December of 1967, Brown County purchased the De Pere Library, its land, and materials, for \$264,863 and made it a unit in the newly established county-wide library system that is still in place and still growing today.

The historic importance of the De Pere Public Library to its community may be hard to measure but it has been profound. As the Libraries Study Unit of the Cultural Resource Manual (CRMP) notes:

Over 100 years have passed [in 1986] since some of Wisconsin's earliest libraries were built. The movement that created them grew out of national and regional trends in economics and society as much as it reflected local initiatives. The broad trends have left an enduring imprint on communities across the state. The town library today is viewed as a necessary civil service,

⁸ Vande Hei, Michael C., Op. Cit., pp. 48-49. It is worth noting that when the State of Wisconsin began a statewide library project for rural schools in 1940, the De Pere Public Library had already been offering the same services in Brown County for fifteen years.

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Continuation Sheet**Section 8 Page 9De Pere Public Library
De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin

functioning not only as a tool for education but also as an important element of a community's self image. The fact that so many of Wisconsin's library buildings are still extant, many still used for their original purpose, attests to their enduring value as libraries and as physical demonstrations of community participation in a cultural movement of national scope and importance.⁹

The De Pere Public Library is therefore believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP because it is the only surviving building in the city that has been associated with the public library movement in De Pere and because it represents the culmination of almost a half century of struggle to give the city of De Pere a free public library building of its own. The historic context for the library movement is further detailed in the multiple property nomination form. The De Pere Public Library is one of the city's more enduring and important institutions and its local significance is heightened by its very high degree in integrity and by the fact that it continues to be used for its original purpose. This significance is further enhanced by the fact that it owes its existence to the Depression era FERA and PWA programs. These federally funded era public works programs have left a built legacy in Wisconsin and elsewhere in the nation that encompasses everything from sidewalks to airports, but few of the projects it helped to complete in Wisconsin can be said to have had a greater and more lasting impact on a community than has this one.¹⁰

Architecture

The De Pere Public Library was completed in 1937 and it is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance as an excellent and exceptionally intact example of the kind of small to medium-sized Period Revival style public libraries that were being built in this country in the 1920s and 1930s. This context is also discussed in the multiple property nomination form. The De Pere Public Library is an especially fine and intact example of the application of the "Cotswold Cottage" variant of the Tudor Revival style design to a middle size public library. The library was designed by Noel R. Safford, an architect and future partner on the staff of the architectural firm of Foeller, Schober and Berners of the nearby city of Green Bay, one of the most important architectural firms in Wisconsin.¹¹ The general contractor was Sam D. Clark of De Pere and much of the work was done by workers sponsored by the Depression era FERA program.

⁹ Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Madison: State Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986. Vol. 3, p. 5-5 (Education).

¹⁰ The De Pere Public Library's period of significance for significance area of Education spans the years from 1937, when the building was put in service, until 1952, the current boundary established by the NPS' 50-year rule.

¹¹ *De Pere Journal-Democrat*. January 28, 1937, p. 1.

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De Pere Public Library
 De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin

The CRMP's Tudor and Elizabethan Revival subsection states that:

Tudor and Elizabethan Revival styles draw primarily upon English antecedents of the sixteenth century. Ornamental half-timbering applied over a conventional balloon frame structure and in-filled with stucco or brick is a hallmark of the Tudor Revival. Elizabethan Revival buildings, much rarer in Wisconsin, are more commonly of brick with stone detailing. They also tend to be larger in scale and more formal. Both styles are characterized by elaborate decorative chimneys, multi-gabled roof lines, and large window expanses subdivided by a multitude of mullions. Tudor and Elizabethan Revival structures are irregular in plan. Small-scale residential versions of the type, sometimes called "Cotswold Cottages," often with a "thatched roof" simulated with shingles, are quaint houses of stone, shingles or brick.¹²

It is to the last mentioned variant of the Tudor Revival style, the so-called "Cotswold Cottages," that the De Pere Public Library belongs. Such buildings typically display most of the basic characteristics of the Tudor Revival style such as elaborate chimneys, multi-gable roof lines, large multi-light window groups, and irregular plans, but they usually do so on a smaller, more domestic scale. The De Pere Public Library is an excellent example of the way in which these elements could be used by a competent designer to produce a public building that had a domestic appearance and also satisfied all the needs of a modern library. The irregular plan adopted for the library was both domestic in appearance and well-suited to the library's need to keep patrons of different ages separate. Similarly, supplying the library with large groups of multi-light windows also provided plentiful daylight for daytime reading. The addition of two working fireplace inside the library was still another nice domestic touch and one that was echoed on the outside of the building by the building's massive chimneys. The combination of all these elements resulted in a building of friendly, approachable design that also happened to be an excellent functioning library as well.

Adding to the success of the design were the materials used. Using locally quarried stone for the exterior and slate for the roof resulted in the creation of a superior, more maintenance free building and they were also in keeping with the style and resulted in the creation of a more "English" appearing building. In addition, these materials were also labor intensive to fashion, which was in line with the make-work aspects of the PWA and FERA programs.

The designers of the library, the firm of Foeller, Schober & Berners, had become one of the most important architectural firms in Wisconsin since its founding in Green Bay in 1895. The founding partner was Henry Foeller (1871-1938), who was born in the French province of Alsace in 1871, the

¹² Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). Op. Cit. Vol. 2, p. 2-30 (Architecture).

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De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin

eldest of 17 children. He came to Wisconsin in 1885 and lived with an uncle in Oshkosh who put him through high school and Oshkosh Teachers College. During this time, Foeller was apprenticed to Oshkosh architect William Waters (1843-1917), the most prominent architect in that city and one of the most prominent in the state. In 1895, Foeller came to Green Bay where he formed a short-lived partnership with James E. Clancy under the name Clancy & Foeller. Two years later, Foeller began practicing on his own and he continued to do so until 1907, when he took as a partner Max W. Schober (?-1965) who had begun his Green Bay career as a draughtsman in Foeller's office. The new firm, Foeller & Schober, soon became the most important one in Green Bay, a position it has maintained long after the death of the original partners.

A major reason for this success was the skill the firm showed in attracting new personnel who had the ability to design conservative versions of the latest architectural styles and fashions. This task was made easier because of the prominence of the firm, which made it the logical place for newly arriving architects and engineers in Green Bay to begin their careers. Among these persons was Edgar Berners, (1898-?), who was born in Port Washington and raised and educated in that community. Berners subsequently became an engineer and came to Green Bay in 1925, where he was promptly employed in the offices of Foeller & Schober. By 1929, Berners had been made a partner in the firm, which was renamed Foeller, Schober & Berners. Berners eventually became certified as an architect and was eventually honored by being named a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.

Not surprisingly, given its relatively close proximity to De Pere, the firm of Foeller & Schober designed more buildings in De Pere than any other known firm between 1904 and the present, almost all of which are still extant. The first was the Beaux Arts style remodeling that Henry Foeller did for the State Bank of De Pere in 1904 at 127 N. Broadway, which is still extant today. This was to be followed by a lengthy list of projects of every kind that have continued to the present day by the latest generation of the firm, which is now one of the oldest if not *the* oldest continuously operating architectural firm in Wisconsin and is known as Berners-Schober Assoc., Inc.¹³

The firm's new library was an immediate hit with the citizens of De Pere. As a local newspaper noted: "De Pere now has a library building to which it can point with pride."¹⁴ The excellence of the building's design and its suitability for the purpose it was intended was also appreciated well beyond the borders of Brown County. In 1939, the federal government published a massive book entitled *Public Buildings: A Survey of Architecture*, that amounted to a nationwide catalog of the finest buildings constructed by the Public Works Administration (PWA) up to that time.¹⁵ Among the few

¹³ Berners-Schober, Assoc., Inc. Archives. The archives of the firm in Green Bay retain the original plans of the library.

¹⁴ *De Pere Journal-Democrat*. January 21, 1937, p. 1.

¹⁵ Short, C. W. and R. Stanley-Brown. *Public Buildings: A Survey of Architecture*. Washington, D.C.: Government

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 12

De Pere Public Library
De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin

small libraries shown was the De Pere Public Library, which, although just one of the many that the PWA had been involved with, was also one of the finest.

Consequently, it is believed that the De Pere Public Library meets the test of Criterion C, which asks that a nominated property exhibit "Distinctive design or physical characteristics." The library exhibits nearly all of the design characteristics that are typically associated with the Tudor Revival style, such as steeply pitched roofs, usually side-gabled; a facade dominated by one or more prominent cross gables, usually steeply pitched; multi-pane windows, usually placed in multiple groups and massive chimneys. These elements have been skillfully blended by the architect, who created an excellent example of the style. The significance of the library is further enhanced by its very intact and original interior and by the very fine physical condition of the building.

In conclusion, the De Pere public library represents the spread of the free library movement to the community and the desire to provide an accessible and well-equipped facility for De Pere and the surrounding community. In addition, the library is a fine example of the cottage subtype of the Tudor Revival style with all of the definitive elements of the style that retains a very high level of architectural integrity on both the interior and the exterior. The period of significance begins with the completion and opening of the building in 1937 to the end of the historic period in 1952.

De Pere Public Library

Brown

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository:

De Pere Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1/6	4/1/4/8/4/5	4/9/2/2/1/6/0	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
				☐	See Continuation Sheet		

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Timothy F. Heggland/Consultant for the City of De Pere Historic Preservation Commission			date	October 29, 2001
organization				telephone	608 795-2650
street & number	6391 Hillsandwoods Road			zip code	53560
city or town	Mazomanie	state	WI		

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De Pere Public Library
De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Berners-Schober, Assoc., Inc. Archives.

De Pere Journal-Democrat. January 21, 1937; January 28, 1937.

Heggland, Timothy F. *City of De Pere Intensive Survey Report*. De Pere: City of De Pere Historic Preservation Commission, 2001.

Koss, Marian Racine. *The Establishment of the De Pere Public Library, 1888-1896*. Oshkosh: University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, December, 1978.

Short, C. W. and R. Stanley-Brown. *Public Buildings: A Survey of Architecture*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1939, p. 339.

Vande Hei, Michael C., *History of the De Pere Public Library, 1896-1968*. Oshkosh: University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, January, 1985.

Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Madison: State Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986. Vols.2 and 3.

De Pere Public Library
Name of Property

Brown
County and State

Wisconsin

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	Brendan Bruss	date	October, 2001
organization	Brown County	telephone	920 448-4035
street&number	Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut St.	zip code	54301
city or town	Green Bay	state	WI

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section 10 Page 1

De Pere Public Library
De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin

Boundary Description:

Lots 19-22, Block 4, De Pere Company's Addition to the Plat of West De Pere.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries include all the land historically associated with the De Pere Public Library.

Attachment: Old Library - National Register Form (9017 : Discussion and possible action regarding a request to consider the nomination and

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Section photos Page 1

De Pere Public Library
De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin

Items a-d are the same for photos 1-9.

Photo 1

- a) De Pere Public Library
- b) De Pere, Brown County, WI
- c) Timothy F. Heggland, September 6, 2001
- d) Wisconsin Historical Society
- e) View of main facade., View looking N
- f) Photo 1 of 9

Photo 9

- e) Interior, old children's room, View looking N
- f) Photo 9 of 9

Photo 2

- e) View looking NE
- f) Photo 2 of 9

Photo 3

- e) Courtyard, View looking E
- f) Photo 3 of 9

Photo 4

- e) View looking SE
- f) Photo 4 of 9

Photo 5

- e) View looking SW
- f) Photo 5 of 9

Photo 6

- e) Interior, checkout desk, View looking E
- f) Photo 6 of 9

Photo 7

- e) Interior, reading room, View looking W
- f) Photo 7 of 9

Photo 8

- e) Interior, reference room fireplace, View looking W
- f) Photo 8 of 9

Attachment: Old Library - National Register Form (9017 : Discussion and possible action regarding a request to consider the nomination and



BROWSE

ABOUT

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416 GEORGE ST

Architecture and History Inventory

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NAMES

Historic Name: **De Pere Post Office**

Other Name:

Contributing:

Reference Number: **1875**

PROPERTY LOCATION

Location (Address): **416 GEORGE ST**County: **Brown**City: **De Pere**

Township/Village:

Unincorporated Community:

Town:

Range:

Direction:

Section:

Quarter Section:

Quarter/Quarter Section:

PROPERTY FEATURES

Year Built: **1941**

Additions:

Survey Date: **20012017**Historic Use: **post office**Architectural Style: **Colonial Revival**

Structural System:

Wall Material: **Limestone**Architect: **SIMON, LOUIS A.**

Other Buildings On Site:

Demolished?: **No**

Demolished Date:

DESIGNATIONS

NOTES

Additional Information: A 'site file' exists for this property. It contains additional information such as correspondence, newspaper clippings, or historical information. It is a public record and may be viewed in person at the Wisconsin Historical Society, Division of Historic Preservation.

Building was originally occupied in 6/1941. Mural was originally hung during the summer of 1942. In 7/1998 they were removed to the Neville Public Museum in Green Bay.

"Other name" previously cited as "Earthheart."

2017 survey recommendation write-up:

Sheathed with locally quarried, irregularly coursed limestone, this one-story, Colonial Revival-style, former post office building is comprised of three blocks. The primary, (George) street-facing and symmetrical façade is side gabled and topped with a tile-shingled roof upon which sits a windowed cupola trimmed with pilasters and corner quoining. The building's central entrance is set beneath a round arch and framed by fluted columns that support a plain wooden entablature, as well as a transom and sidelights. A pair of lamp standards occupies each side of the base of the entrance staircase, which includes a decorative metal railing. Two twelve-over-twelve-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows are located to either side of the doorway, while both the east and west gabled endwalls also carry a pair of multiple-light sash. Each of the fully pedimented and board-sided gabled peaks includes a lunette window. Behind the entrance block, the mid-block is topped with a flat roof that is obscured by a parapet beneath which runs a wooden cornice. A wooden frieze with dentil trim encapsulates this block as well as the entrance block. The rear wing, a portion of which originally served as a two-bay loading dock, has since been enclosed for additional commercial space. The lower level is sheathed with limestone, while the upper half is covered with vinyl. Windows in this portion replicate the twelve-over-twelve lighting of those along the main block and the doorway is also classically inspired to match the building's original character. The interior of the building no longer reflects the interior arrangement (or features) while the building served as the post office.

Completed in 1941 at a reported cost of \$48,066, construction of the De Pere Post Office building was funded with Public Works Administration monies. The federal monetary award stipulated that the project not exceed \$75,000, including purchase of a site. The site upon which the building is located was purchased from John Hahn for a sum of \$10,000. Plans drawn by Supervising Architect Louis A. Simon were delivered to De Pere in August of 1940. The Colonial Revival-style structure called for native stone exterior walls, wooden windows, lamp standards and brass railings. The general construction contract was awarded two months later to Dean Engineering and Construction of Minneapolis, Minnesota. As of late September 1941, the local paper reported that the building would be complete as of October 2nd; indeed, dedication occurred on that day. The following year, Works Progress Administration-funded murals painted by Two Rivers artist Lester Bentley were installed in the building. The structure functioned as a post office through 1996, at which time the murals were given to the local historical society which, in turn, gave them to the Neville Public Museum in Green Bay. The building has since served a variety of functions, including general office space, as well as a restaurant.

Bibliographic References: 2001: BUILDING CORNERSTONE laid 1940. DEPERE JOURNAL 2/8/1996. DEPERE JOURNAL "Post Office Paintings Now In Neville." 7/16/1998. Citations for 2017 survey information provided below in Additional Comments: The exterior limestone is identified in the draft National Register nomination as quarried in Lannon, Wisconsin; however, one of the local newspaper articles from 1941 indicates the stone came locally, from Scray quarries, "Building to Be Finished Oct. 2," Green Bay Press-Gazette, 24 September 1941, 12. "New Post Office Plans Received," Green Bay Press-Gazette, 22 August 1940, 24; "Early Start on Post Office Seen," Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10; "Building to Be Finished Oct. 2"; Draft National Register nomination prepared for the De Pere Post Office, Prepared by Charles W. Causier and Joseph G. Jurkiewicz, HNTB, December 1993, Copy in "De Pere Post Office" site file, Department of Historic Preservation, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI. Also included in the site file is correspondence with the United States Postal Service regarding the potential changes to the building following the postal services deaccessioning of the property.

report. Although the city is home to thirty examples of the style (per the WAHI), they are all on a much smaller scale than that of the Hudson house, with some examples perhaps being more appropriately identified as Tudor Revival “influenced.” Therefore, based on the preceding information, the Dr. Alden and Amalia Hudson House is recommended potentially eligible under Criterion C: Architecture.

Address	AHI#	NRHP Evaluation
416 George Street	1875	Potentially Eligible
Description and Statement of Significance		

Sheathed with locally quarried³⁰, irregularly coursed limestone, this one-story, Colonial Revival-style, former post office building is comprised of three blocks. The primary, (George) street-facing and symmetrical façade is side gabled and topped with a tile-shingled roof upon which sits a windowed cupola trimmed with pilasters and corner quoining. The building’s central entrance is set beneath a round arch and framed by fluted columns that support a plain wooden entablature, as well as a transom and sidelights. A pair of lamp standards occupies each side of the base of the entrance staircase, which includes a decorative metal railing. Two twelve-over-twelve-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows are located to either side of the doorway, while both the east and west gabled endwalls also carry a pair of multiple-light sash. Each of the fully pedimented and board-sided gabled peaks includes a lunette window. Behind the entrance block, the mid-block is topped with a flat roof that is obscured by a parapet beneath which runs a wooden cornice. A wooden frieze with dentil trim encapsulates this block as well as the entrance block. The rear wing, a portion of which originally served as a two-bay loading dock, has since been enclosed for additional commercial space. The lower level is sheathed with limestone, while the upper half is covered with vinyl. Windows in this portion replicate the twelve-over-twelve lighting of those along the main block and the doorway is also classically inspired to match the building’s original character. The interior of the building no longer reflects the interior arrangement (or features) while the building served as the post office.



416 George Street: De Pere Post Office.

Completed in 1941 at a reported cost of \$48,066, construction of the De Pere Post Office building was funded with Public Works Administration monies. The federal monetary award stipulated that the project not exceed \$75,000, including purchase of a site. The site upon which the building is located was purchased from John Hahn for a sum of \$10,000. Plans drawn by Supervising Architect Louis A. Simon were delivered to De Pere in August of 1940. The Colonial Revival-style structure called for native stone exterior walls, wooden windows, lamp standards and brass

³⁰ The exterior limestone is identified in the draft National Register nomination (see footnote #31 for citation) as quarried in Lannon, Wisconsin; however, one of the local newspaper articles from 1941 indicates the stone came locally, from Scray quarries, “Building to Be Finished Oct. 2,” *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, 24 September 1941, 12.

railings. The general construction contract was awarded two months later to Dean Engineering and Construction of Minneapolis, Minnesota. As of late September 1941, the local paper reported that the building would be complete as of October 2nd; indeed, dedication occurred on that day. The following year, Works Progress Administration-funded murals painted by Two Rivers artist Lester Bentley were installed in the building. The structure functioned as a post office through 1996, at which time the murals were given to the local historical society which, in turn, gave them to the Neville Public Museum in Green Bay. The building has since served a variety of functions, including general office space, as well as a restaurant.³¹

No information was found to substantiate potential eligibility under Criterion B: Significant Persons. Regarding Criterion A: History, the building is, in fact, notable for its association with Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal program/PWA funding. Although the exterior continues to largely reflect its original 1940 design, the interior of the building has been altered such that its association with the U.S. postal service—the intent of the structure—has since been negated. Therefore, the building is not considered potentially eligible under Criterion A. Also, in 1993, at the time of the completion of the draft National Register nomination for the building, eligibility was based on the Bentley murals of the interior. As noted, they were removed as of 1996. Based on that information, the building is not recommended as potentially eligible under Criterion C: Architecture, as it applies to eligibility for artistic distinction. Finally, however, the building is a very good and largely intact, non-residential example of the Colonial Revival style, of which the former De Pere Post Office stands as the only such example. Although the rearmost wing (which is not visible when standing in front of the building) was altered to an enclosed state rather recently, the majority of the building stands largely unaltered. Standing as a very good—and the only—example of a non-residential building of Colonial Revival design, the former De Pere Post Office is recommended as potentially eligible for the National Register under Criterion C: Architecture.

Address	AHI#	NRHP Evaluation
713 Glenwood Avenue	121413	Potentially Eligible
Description and Statement of Significance		

Sheathed with both diagonally and vertically laid board, this tall-and-narrow, two (+) story Shed-style house is topped with a steeply pitched shed roof. Built into the hillside, the ground level includes a garage, while the first and second levels of the street-facing elevation include minimal fenestration.

Designed by James Cagle, the house was built in 1967 for Cagle and his family. James Cagle was born in Tennessee and grew up in Indiana. He earned his Master of Fine Arts degree from Michigan State University in 1963, after which he taught for forty-two years in the art

³¹ "New Post Office Plans Received," *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, 22 August 1940, 24; "Early Start on Post Office Seen," *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, 10; "Building to Be Finished Oct. 2"; Draft National Register nomination prepared for the De Pere Post Office, Prepared by Charles W. Causier and Joseph G. Jurkiewicz, HNTB, December 1993, Copy in "De Pere Post Office" site file, Department of Historic Preservation, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI. Also included in the site file is correspondence with the United States Postal Service regarding the potential changes to the building following the postal services deaccessioning of the property.



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200 N BROADWAY

Architecture and History Inventory

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NAMES

Historic Name: **Union House Hotel**Other Name: **Union Hotel**

Contributing:

Reference Number: **1804**

PROPERTY LOCATION

Location (Address): **200 N BROADWAY**County: **Brown**City: **De Pere**

Township/Village:

Unincorporated Community:

Town:

Range:

Direction:

Section:

Quarter Section:

Quarter/Quarter Section:

PROPERTY FEATURES

Year Built: **1883**Additions: **1903 1885 1922 1920**Survey Date: **2001**Historic Use: **hotel/motel**Architectural Style: **Italianate**

Structural System:

Wall Material: **Brick**

Architect:

Other Buildings On Site:

Demolished?: **No**

Demolished Date:

DESIGNATIONS

National/State Register Listing Name: **Union House Hotel**National Register Listing Date: **11/26/2003**State Register Listing Date: **7/18/2003**

National Register Multiple Property Name:

NOTES

Additional Information:A 'site file' exists for this property. It contains additional information such as correspondence, newspaper clippings, or historical information. It is a public record and may be viewed in person at the Wisconsin Historical Society, Division of Historic Preservation.

Bibliographic References:[A] Green Bay Press Gazette, 10/22/1991. DÉPERE JOURNAL 3/23/1995. DePere Journal 3/20/1997. Take a Walk on Main Street: Historic Walking Tours in Wisconsin's Main Street Communities, Wisconsin Main Street Program, 1998. DePere Journal Democrat 1/20/1921, p. 1. DePere News 11/17/1883, p. 1, 9/1/1883, p. 1, 9/15/1883, p. 1, 10/27/1883, p. 1.

RECORD LOCATION

[Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory](#), State Historic Preservation Office, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Historic Preservation Commission Action

MEETING DATE: December 16, 2019

DEPARTMENT: Planning

FROM: Peter Schleinz

SUBJECT: Discussion regarding the potential preservation of old and historic buildings, such as the Century and Old Journal Buildings.

Presentation to be made by Chair Mike Fleck.