

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

NOV 14 1979

DATE ENTERED

JAN 17 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Bank of Washburn
AND/OR COMMON

Old Washburn State Bank Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Bayfield Street and Central Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Washburn

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7th

STATE

Wisconsin

VICINITY OF

CODE
55COUNTY
BayfieldCODE
007**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

William D. Maki

STREET & NUMBER

R.R. 1, Box 137

CITY, TOWN

Washburn

 VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 54891

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Bayfield County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

117 East 5th

CITY, TOWN

Washburn

STATE

Wisconsin 54891

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

June 1975

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bank of Washburn, built in 1890, is a two plus attic story brownstone ashlar building. Its steeply pitched hipped roof gives a tall, narrow profile, particularly dominant since the two story courthouse is the next tallest building in Washburn.

Sixteen ^{engaged} stone columns encircle three sides of the first floor, defining fenestration, doors, and corners. The top third of the column shafts are scored, and the capitals have foliated ornamentation. First floor windows are either large glazed panels or sash. Five of them were replaced by smaller openings in the 1950s and 1960s, as was the main entrance. These are the only major alterations on the exterior.

The second floor is virtually intact, retaining many of the original window panes. Eight full-height, round-arched windows suggest Romanesque styling. The glass panes in the tympanum are original, but have been painted over. In addition to the arched windows, there are paired, sash windows, and above the entry, small glazed openings.

The roof consists of a steeply pitched hipped portion closest to the street corner and an adjacent hipped roof. Large, hipped wall dormers interrupt the steep roof, while smaller dormers accentuate the lower roof. A decorative stringcourse embellishes the wall of the steeply pitched portion, below the wall dormers. The original copper roof was tarred over in 1946, but the present owners plan to restore it. A curved copper antefix adorns each roof.

Much of the original interior has been lost through the three changes in banking operations, adaptations for a restaurant, hotel and offices, and its recent conversion into apartment units. However, several marble sinks and fixtures still remain, as well as some of the original woodwork and the bank vault. The building is presently divided into five private apartments, with additional sleeping rooms in the half story. The elevator was removed in the 1960s. A small frame storage shed on the north elevation was added circa 1950.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1890¹

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bank of Washburn is significant for the fine craftsmanship of the brownstone construction and as the largest and most distinctively designed commercial building in the City of Washburn. The building represents a period of economic growth and development in northern Wisconsin and is probably an early example of an architect-designed building of local brownstone in that region.

In 1887, A. C. Probert founded the first bank in Bayfield County at Washburn, four years after the town's founding. Three years later he built a sturdy building for the bank. Mindful of a fire that destroyed part of Washburn in 1888, he chose local brownstone as the construction material.

The Romanesque Revival Bank of Washburn was built of Potsdam sandstone, most commonly known as brownstone. The quarry south of Washburn yielded the stone used in the building. Because of several disastrous fires in the late nineteenth century in northern Wisconsin, brownstone became a very popular construction material. Many of the region's commercial, religious, and public structures utilized the stone that was so prevalent in the northern coastal fields.

The bank building cost about \$25,000 to build. Only the first floor was designed for use by the bank; upper floors were rented as offices.²

1. Inscribed in stone over the entrance; also, The Washburn News, vol. 4, December 27, 1890, p. 1
2. The Washburn News, vol. 4, January 17, 1891, p. 1

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sheridan, Charles, interview with Jim Peters, August 11, 1978

The Washburn News, vol. 4, Dec. 27, 1890 and Jan. 17, 1891

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.16

QUADRANGLE NAME Washburn, Wis.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 661295 5170820

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 31 and 32 of Block 58 of the original plat of Washburn, Wisconsin

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jim Peters, Project Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Northwest Regional Planning Commission

DATE

August, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

302 Walnut Street

TELEPHONE

715/635-2197

CITY OR TOWN

Spooner

STATE

Wisconsin 54801

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Rubena Murray

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

11/5/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. Ray Luce
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1/17/80

ATTEST: *Emma Jane Saxe*

DATE

1/16/80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

Regional Coordinator

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 14 1979

DATE ENTERED

JAN 17 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Bank of Washburn, Washburn, Bayfield County, Wisconsin

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER ^{See} below PAGE 1

8. In 1895 A.C. Probert, the bank's founder and president, was convicted of illegal banking practices. He was sent to prison and the bank closed. After years of litigation, ownership was turned over to the village and the building was leased to the Bayfield County Bank. In 1923 this bank, too, was closed for illegal practices.

From 1924-1954 the First National Bank of Washburn occupied the building. Since 1954 ownership and functions have changed several times. The District Attorney and Forest Service leased the old bank quarters; later a restaurant was housed there. By the 1960s the entire building was leased as private apartments.

The Bank of Washburn is probably the finest building in Washburn. At one time it was considered the finest building in Bayfield County.³ The warm reddish-brown walls, the strikingly narrow profile of the building, and the interesting texture and design of the details lends the building a quality that is rare in this sparsely populated part of the state. The building is an eye-catching element of the main street of Washburn, readily apparent as the most substantial and distinctive of the village's buildings.

-
3. The Washburn News, vol. 4, 12-27-90, p.1

11. Barbara Wyatt

State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Historic Preservation Division April 1979

816 State Street 608/262-8904

Madison Wisconsin 53706

Property

Bank of Washburn

State

Ni Bayfield

Working Number

11-14-79 2735

TECHNICAL

Photos /

Maps /

CONTROL

HISTORIAN

1890 brownstone, 2 1/2-story bank designed in 19th C. eclectic manner showing influence of Richardsonian Romanesque. Signif as example of brownstone construction method, distinctive Commercial bldg. type, and for assoc. w/turn of century banking history in Washburn.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*Saxe
1/16/80*

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*Accept.
Saxe 1/16/80*

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered JAN 17 1980

Federal Register Entry 2-3-81

Re-submit



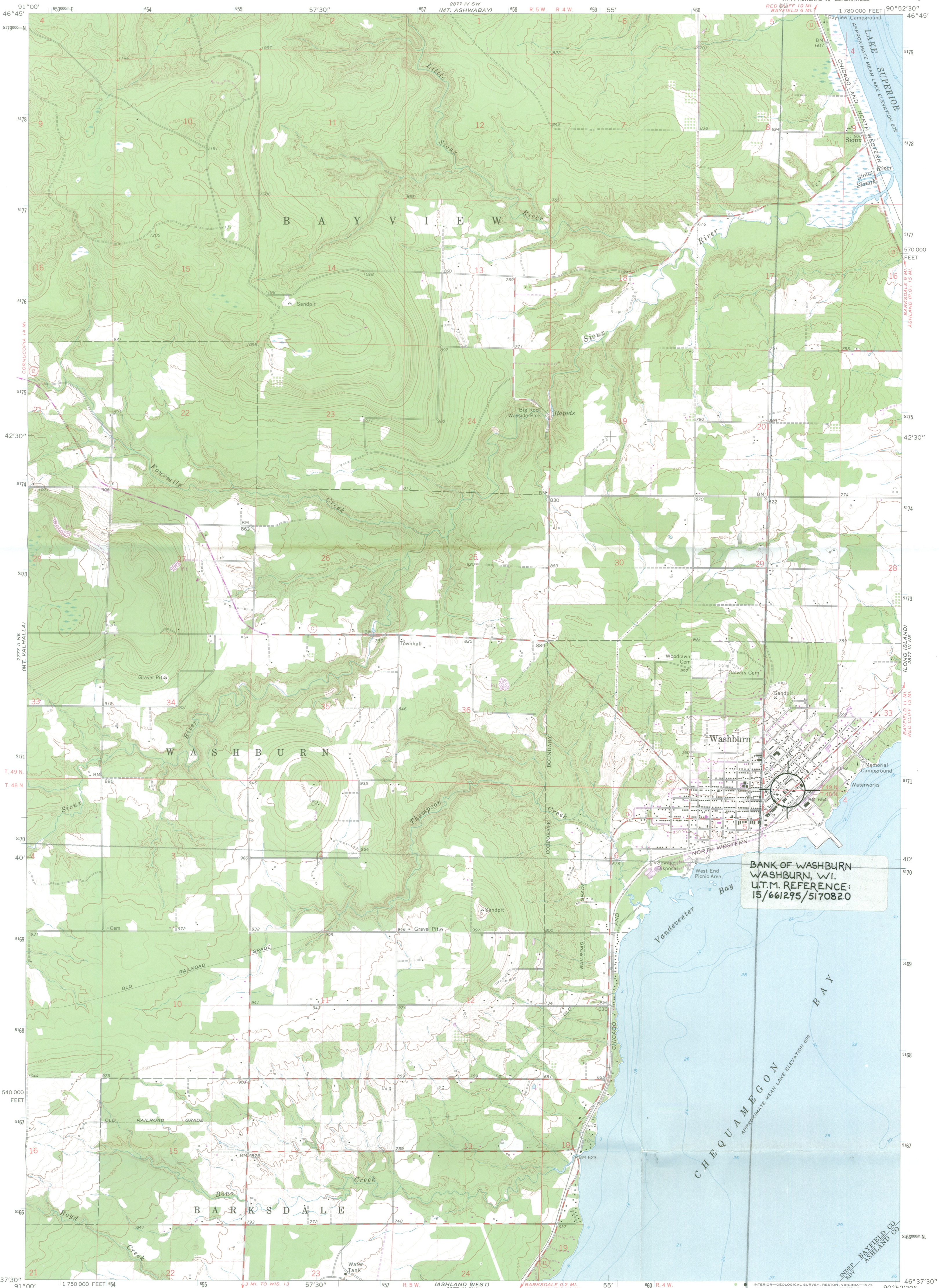
Bank of Washburn, Bayfield St. &
Central Ave., Washburn, Bayfield
Co., Wis., 1979. Photo by Barbara
Wyatt. Neg. at Wisconsin Society.
3/4 view from South. Photo #1 of 1

JAN 17 1980

6

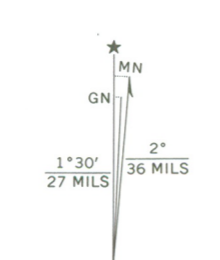
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WASHBURN QUADRANGLE
WISCONSIN
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NW/4 ASHLAND 15' QUADRANGLE



BANK OF WASHBURN
WASHBURN, WI.
U.T.M. REFERENCE:
15/661295/5170820

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with State of Wisconsin agencies
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1964
Selected hydrographic data compiled from U.S. Lake Survey Charts 961 (1961) and 964 (1962)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Wisconsin coordinate system, north zone
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS LOW WATER 601.6 FEET



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Medium-duty — Light-duty
Unimproved dirt —
State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 AND WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

WASHBURN, WIS.
NW/4 ASHLAND 15' QUADRANGLE
N4637.5—W9052.5/7.5

1964
PHOTOREVISED 1975
AMS 2877 III NW—SERIES V961



JAN 17 1980

RECEIVED

SEP 17 1979

HIST. PRES. DIV.

September 13, 1979

Mr. Richard A. Erney
State Historic Preservation Officer
Attention: Mr. Jeff Dean
The State Historical Society of Wisconsin
816 State Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

SUBJECT: WISCONSIN HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW
BOARD NOMINATION

Dear Mr. Dean:

We were elated to receive your September 7, 1979 letter advising that the old Washburn Bank building was again going to be considered by the Board as a possible nominee to the National Register of Historic Places. We are totally in support of this action and sincerely hope that this time it will receive support from the Board and be included in the National Register of Historic Places.

Since our correspondence earlier this year, both my wife and I have searched for some confirmation as to the architect of the building. We were unable to locate any specific confirmation except for an article contained in the August 30, 1979 issue of The Washburn Times. I am enclosing a copy of that article for your use and information and also one copy of an article from the September 6, 1979 Washburn Times. The August 30th article refers to the firm of Conover and Porter of Ashland as being the group drawing the plans for the building. I hope that this will help support the earlier thought that Mr. Conover was the architect. I am also enclosing for you a copy of a photograph of the building taken in 1978 and also a very old postcard which shows the building. If it turns out that the Board does not nominate the building for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, we would appreciate your returning the old postcard for our records. You may keep the color photograph.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to call and we will do our best to answer them promptly.

Very truly yours,



W. D. Maki
R. R. 1, Box 137
Washburn, Wisconsin 54891

Enclosures (5)



40
December 10, 1979

Carol D. Shull
Acting Keeper of the National Register
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Pension Building
440 G. Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20243

Bayfield
Mistel
1-17-80
W.D.M.

Attention: NOM

SUBJECT: NOMINEE FOR NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
BANK OF WASHBURN, WISCONSIN

Dear Ms. Shull:

We were pleased to learn that the Bank of Washburn has been nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as confirmed in your letter dated November 20, 1979. We have worked with the State of Wisconsin group which is responsible for nominating historic places for listing in the National Register and hope that the information which you have available on the old Bank of Washburn building is sufficient for you to determine whether or not it should be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The building is a landmark in Washburn, Wisconsin, a city with a population slightly less than 2,000, located on the south shore of Lake Superior near the Apostle Islands. The community was built around forest related industries and also some sandstone quarrying operations which supplied the materials for the old bank building. Our intention is to maintain the building, utilize it as best we can, and preserve it for the future.

In summary, we hope that the old Bank of Washburn will be listed in the National Register of Historic Places and would recommend that it be listed. If you need any additional information which you feel we could furnish to aid you in determining whether or not the old bank should be listed, please advise and we will do our best to supply it promptly.

Very truly yours,



W. D. MAKI
R. R. 1, Box 137
Washburn, WI 54891

WDM/g

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D DEC 13 1979

_____ INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

_____ INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL SENT

_____ TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN _____

INITIALS _____

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE WISCONSIN

Date Entered JAN 17 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Jefferson Public Library	Jefferson Jefferson County
Bank of Washburn	Washburn Bayfield County
State Bank of Ladysmith	Ladysmith Rusk County
Danes Hall	Waupaca Waupaca County
Stoner, Joseph J., House	Madison Dane County
Regez, Jacob, Sr., House	Monroe Green County
Whitman-Belden House	Rochester Racine County

Also Notified

Honorable Gaylord Nelson

Honorable William Proxmire
Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner
Honorable David R. Obey
Honorable Toby Roth
Honorable Robert W. Kastenmeier
Honorable Les Aspin

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Richard A. Erney
Director
State Historical Society of Wisconsin
816 State Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

NR Byers/bjr 1/23/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.