

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received AUG 4 1981

date entered SEP 3 1981

## 1. Name

historic Sparta Free Library

and/or common same

## 2. Location

street & number Court and Main streets \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Sparta \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district Third

state Wisconsin code 55 county Monroe code 081

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name City of Sparta; Thomas W. Gomez, Mayor

street & number City Hall

city, town Sparta \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Wisconsin 54656

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Monroe County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Sparta \_\_\_\_\_ state Wisconsin 54656

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1977 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison \_\_\_\_\_ state Wisconsin 53706

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Sparta Free Library is located on the northeast corner of the courthouse square in the center of the small city of Sparta. A variety of modest-sized buildings of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries frame the landscaped lawns of the courthouse. The post office, city hall, and police and fire station are all located within a two-block radius of the library. The site itself is well-tended, enhancing the visual quality of the building.

Nearly cross-shaped with a projecting rear wing and shorter front portico, the sixty-one by thirty-six foot one-story brick building is raised on a high coursed stone foundation. An open Palladian portico with center Ionic columns and side Doric piers is reached from the east and west by a divided stair of rusticated stone. Inscription stones marked CARNEGIE, 1902, and SPARTA FREE LIBRARY decorate the stair, frieze of the stone entablature, and the stone parapet above the molded cornice. Cut stone oculi and a keystone arch trim the brick spandrels.

Stone arcading and sills enclose the round-headed windows, three to each side of the front portico, and four on each of the east and west end walls. Three-quarter-size windows on the faces of the rear wing are similarly accented. Stone quoins trim the corners of the building. Windows in the basement story are rectangular, with double-hung sash.

Much of the regularly-planned first floor is open, divided only by grand mahogany arches springing from panelled mahogany columns. The center entry opens to the card catalog and circulation desk, divided by arches from the reading rooms in the east and west ends and stacks to the north. The south wall of the east reading room is covered by a crene-lated full-length brown brick fireplace, whose half-mantel is overhung by a stained ceramic three-quarter bas-relief portrait of Andrew Carnegie. Dark mahogany moldings course the buff plaster walls at the upper and lower edges of the rectangular window frames. Ceilings, and the center skylight, were covered by a dropped ceiling in 1975. Furnishings include four original Mission-style oak lounge chairs, two arm chairs, four dark oak library tables, and twenty-eight oak library chairs. Reached by a stair along the west side of the entry, the basement story is divided into children's room, a small meeting room, storage areas, and rest rooms.

A recently-approved addition to the rear of the building will be made in matching brick and stone, duplicating the high basement and arcaded windows of the exterior. The added space will accommodate stacks on the first floor and a new children's area in the basement. Work will include repairing the front divided stair and restoring the original ball finials, repointing the walls, damp-proofing the foundation, repairing the copper roof, restoring the skylight, and installing new plumbing, heating, period lighting, and air conditioning.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 1902<sup>1</sup>

Builder/Architect Schick & Roth, La Crosse<sup>2</sup>

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Sparta Free Library is architecturally significant as representative of both a type and period of construction. Similar in scale and plan to other small turn-of-the-century Carnegie libraries, the Sparta example is distinguished among its fellows by the sophistication of its NeoClassical form. The crisp contrast of brick walls with stone arcaded openings and quoins, and the formal projecting pavilion with Palladian portico and rusticated divided stair compose, according to known information, a singular piece of design in the state.

The partnership of Schick & Roth of La Crosse, architects of the Sparta Free Library, was the descendant firm of Stoltze & Schick. Born in Germany in 1854,<sup>3</sup> Gustave Stoltze practiced in La Crosse in the 1880s before joining into partnership with Hugo Schick in the 1890s.<sup>4</sup> During their association the firm designed the Chicago, Burlington & Northern Depot, Tillman Brothers Block, the City Hall, and various schools and churches in La Crosse,<sup>5</sup> and the Clark County Jail (NRHP, 1978) of 1897 in Neillsville. In the first decade of the twentieth century Hugo Schick joined in practice with Andrew Roth, who had been practicing in La Crosse since 1893.<sup>6</sup> Born in Bidjow, Austria, Schick was raised and educated in Vienna, completing his studies at the Polytechnical School and Academy of Arts in 1877 at age twenty-two. Schick worked several years in Vienna, then in New York, Chicago, and St. Paul, before coming to La Crosse in 1886.

A grant of \$10,000 was received from the Carnegie Foundation in 1900 for the construction of the Sparta library; before the building was completed, an additional \$2,000 was requested and received.<sup>7</sup> The building committee of the Sparta Free Library Trustees was composed of Dr. F. P. Stiles, C. M. Masters, Professor F. E. Doty, and George A. Richardson.<sup>8</sup> Contractor L. V. Huschka completed the building in April of 1903.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Datestone on building.

<sup>2</sup> Sparta Herald, June 10, 1902.

<sup>3</sup> Biographical History of La Crosse, Monroe and Juneau Counties, Wisconsin, Chicago, 1892, p. 179.

<sup>4</sup> La Crosse City Directories, 1880–1920.

<sup>5</sup> Biographical History of La Crosse, Monroe and Juneau Counties, Wisconsin, 1892, p. 179.

<sup>6</sup> Files of the Wisconsin State Examiners Board, 1917–24, in the Archives Collection of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. On a license dated January of 1918 from the Industrial Commission of Wisconsin, Andrew Roth stated that he had practiced in La Crosse since 1893.

(continued)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Biographical History of La Crosse, Monroe and Juneau Counties, Wisconsin, Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, 1892.

Sparta Herald, 1902-03.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED  
UTM NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Sparta, Wisconsin

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UTM References

A 

1	5	6	7	5	6	5	0	4	8	6	7	8	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

## Verbal boundary description and justification

West 130 feet of lot 1, 2, 3 in Block 4 of the original plat of the city of Sparta, Monroe County, 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 (continued)

name/title Diane H. Filipowicz, Architectural Historian

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date May, 1981

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

city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Richard Murray

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 7/27/81

For HCERS use only

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

Delores Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 9/3/81

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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

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

Sparta Free Library, Sparta, Monroe Co., Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number 8,11

Page 1

For HCRS use only  
received AUG 4 1981  
date entered SEP 3 1981

Footnotes (continued)

<sup>7</sup> Sparta Herald, February 11, 1902

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Sparta Herald, August 19, 1902.

11. Form Prepared By

Research assistance by: Mrs. Blanche Gleiss  
701 West Main Street  
Sparta, Wisconsin 54656

March, 1981  
608/269-2010

DUE after 9/2/81 - 9/18/81

dnr-3

Name Sparta Free Library  
State, County WI, Monroe  
Working Number 8.4.81.277

Fed Nom or Request—Agency \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Date 2.2.82

Nomination  
 Determination of Eligibility  
 On Nomination Form

Bldg(s)  
 Site  
 Object  
 Structure  
 District

Within:  
 Multiple Resource Area  
 Thematic Group

Maps 1  
Photos 1

Nomination prepared by:  
 State Staff  
 Local  
 Other

Entered in the  
Action: National Register Check if Appropriate:  
 ACCEPT 9/3/81  State Request for Review  
 RETURN \_\_\_\_\_  Keeper's Decision to Review  
 REJECT \_\_\_\_\_  2nd Return

I. Evaluation of Resource (cont. on back if necessary)

II. Evaluation of Nomination

	Good			Comments
	Adequate	Poor		
1. Descriptive Statement Short Format <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
2. Significance Statement Short Format <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
3. Concepts/Integrity				
4. Concepts/Criteria				
5. Concepts/Boundaries				
6. Contextual Evaluation				

General Comments (cont. on back if necessary):

Reviewer/Date \_\_\_\_\_

See Attached \_\_\_\_\_



Sparta Free Library, NE Cor. West  
Main & Court sts., Sparta, Monroe  
County, Wis. Photo by Diane H.  
Filipowicz, April 1981. Neg. at  
State Historical Society of Wis.  
View from SSW. Photo #1 of 1.

SEP 3 1981

AUG 4 1981

18



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USED  
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1946. Field check 1947.  
Transverse Mercator projection. 1927 North American Datum.  
Red tint indicates area in which only  
landmark buildings are shown  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue

SCALE 1:62,500  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
DASHED LINES REPRESENT HALF-INTERVAL CONTOURS  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
HARD-SURFACE ALL WEATHER ROADS  
Heavy-duty ——— LANE LANE Improved dirt  
Medium-duty ——— LANE LANE Unimproved dirt  
Loose-surface, graded, or narrow hard-surface - - -  
U. S. Route  
State Route



SPARTA, WIS.  
N4345-W9045/15  
1947  
AMS 2871 IV-SERIES V761

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

SEP 3 1981

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RECEIVED  
JUL 21 1981  
HIST. PRES. DIV.

July 14, 1981

Mr. Richard A. Erney  
State Historical Society of Wisconsin  
816 State Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Dear Mr. Erney:

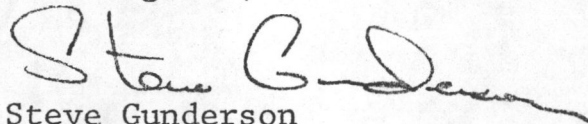
This letter is written in behalf of my constituent, Mr. Wilfred E. Beaver, Director, Monroe County Historical Society, regarding the nomination of the Sparta Free Library to the National Register of Historic Places.

It is my understanding that the Sparta Free Library is being considered for nomination by the State Historical Society and that its case will be presented to the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board in Madison on July 24, 1981. As you know, the Sparta Free Library was established in 1874 and observed 100 years of service to the community in 1974. I would be very proud to have this building designated as an historical building.

It is my wish to express my sincere interest in having this building found worthy of this designation. I hope that it will receive every possible consideration from the Review Board.

Thank you kindly for your attention in this matter. I would greatly appreciate receiving notification of your decisions after the July 24, 1981 meeting.

Best regards,



Steve Gunderson  
Member of Congress

SG/jb

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE WISCONSIN

Date Entered SEP 3 1981

Name

Location

Third Ward School

Sheboygan  
Sheboygan County

Sparta Free Library

Sparta  
Monroe County

Also Notified

Honorable Robert W. Kasten, Jr.

Honorable William Proxmire  
Honorable Thomas E. Petri  
Honorable Steven Gunderson  
Midwest Region, NPS

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

NR

Eady/bjr/9/8/81

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

272-3504