

Public Service Building
231 West Michigan Street
Milwaukee
Milwaukee County
Wisconsin

HABS No. WI-275

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA



United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Washington, D.C. 20243

NATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING RECORD
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

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STATE Wisconsin	COUNTY Milwaukee	TOWN OR VICINITY Milwaukee
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Public Service Building		HABS NO. WI-275
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 231 West Michigan Street		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1903-1905 (per building permit)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Herman J. Esser, archt.	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) When opened in 1905, this building of the Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Co. housed waiting rooms and terminal facilities with eleven tracks passing through the building. At its height, the system of electric railways served the entire city of Milwaukee, with interurban lines as well. The last interurban line was abandoned in 1951, and the city's last streetcar was discontinued in 1958.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Renaissance Revival		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Load bearing masonry, brick and stone facing.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Rusticated stone ground floor, stone quoins and keystone lintels; pavilions at each end with four pilasters on second and third floors; central pavilion has large round arch with balcony at third floor; medallions on either side of door depict horse drawn and electric trolleys.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Fifth floor added in three sections in 1926, 1929, and 1930.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Offices for Wisconsin Electric Power Co., present owner		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places, form prepared by David J. Franberger and James J. Boerner, April 8, 1977		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Alison K. Hoagland, HABS	DATE August, 1980	