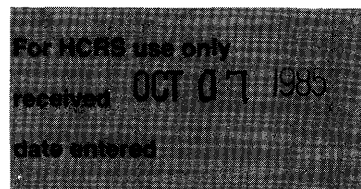


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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



**1. Name**

historic Duluth State Normal School Historic District

and/or common University of Minnesota, Duluth (Lower Campus)

**2. Location**

street & number on East 5th Street between 22nd and 23rd Avenues N/A not for publication

city, town Duluth N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Minnesota code 22 county St. Louis code 137

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name University of Minnesota, Duluth; Attn: Robert L. Heller, Provost

street & number 515 Darland Administration Building

city, town Duluth N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 55812-9989

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Louis County Courthouse - Register of Deeds

street & number Fifth Avenue West and First Street

city, town Duluth state Minnesota 55802

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Duluth Historic Resources Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Northeast Minnesota Historical Center -- University of Minnesota, Duluth

city, town Duluth state Minnesota

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	(Main Bldg.)	date <u>          N/A          </u>

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

The campus of the Duluth State Normal School occupies a hillside site in the Chester Park neighborhood of Duluth's east side. The campus consists of four structures arranged in an "L" and designated: Main Building, Washburn Hall, Torrance Hall, Model School Building (currently Research Laboratory Building). The grounds of the campus are maintained with no intrusions.

Erected between 1898 and 1901, the Main Building was designed by Duluth architects Palmer, Hall, and Hunt. For the early years of the Normal School, the Main Building housed all functions, including administrative offices, library, laboratories, classrooms, auditorium, and gymnasium. The original building comprises what is now the large central pavilion with two extending stub-wings. In 1909 and 1915 the east and west wings (pavilions) were added to complement the original building, resulting in a structure which is 290 feet in length, 100 feet in width, and three stories in height. Additions were designed by W.A. Hunt, successor to Palmer, Hall, and Hunt. The auditorium/ library wing was added to the rear of the building in 1926.

The Main Building is constructed of orange brick with stone and terracotta trim. It rests on a high basement of red sandstone. Stylistically it is representative of the Beaux Arts interpretation of the Renaissance Revival style. Distinctive design treatments include a tri-part loggia entrance with semicircular keystone arches, Doric pilasters, and balustrade; semi-circular arched windows on the third story level, stone quoins, Corinthian pilasters on the corners of the east and west wings, a decorative treatment of the attic story of cut stone and patterned brick with a combination of circular and rectangular windows, and a dominant bracketted cornice supporting a low, red-tile-clad hipped roof adorned with acroteria. The building retains original fenestration and interior millwork (installed after a major fire in 1901). As designed, the Main Building contains 40 rooms.

The second of the buildings to be erected on the Normal School campus is situated due easterly from the Main Building. Designated Washburn Hall, it is a three story brick building executed in the simple Georgian Revival style. Washburn Hall was constructed in 1907 according to designs by State Architect, Clarence H. Johnston, Sr. It was the first of two dormitory structures to be constructed on the campus and served until 1938 as a women's dormitory when it was converted into a men's residence and welfare building. Prominent design features include a seven bay symmetrical front with central three-story tower rising above a Doric portico. Ground level and first story windows are arched whereas second story windows are simple rectangles. The third story is contained within a dormered hipped roof. As originally designed Washburn Hall provided residence for 48 students in double-occupancy rooms. Dining, kitchen, laundry, and bath facilities were also provided.

(see continuation sheet - page 1)

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Duluth State Normal School Complex, Duluth, St. Louis County, MN

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The second, and larger dormitory is situated to the north and east of the Main Building at the terminus of the entrance driveway. This building is designated Torrance Hall and also served as a women's residence, providing space for 90 students. Constructed in 1909, it was also designed by Clarence H. Johnston, Sr. and is of identical detailing and style as Washburn Hall. As Washburn Hall and the Main Building, it is constructed of orange brick with red stone detailing.

The last of the buildings to be erected on campus was the Model School Building, now known as the Research Laboratory Building. When constructed in 1926, it contained over 30 classrooms. It is the third of the buildings to be designed by Clarence H. Johnston, Sr. and exemplifies a restrained classical style. This building is located to the west of the Main Building, spanning a small ravine and creek. The building also houses the power and heating plant for the campus. Executed on an "H" plan, it is two stories in height on the principal facade, extending to three stories over the ravine. It is set on a foundation of random ashlar; upper stories are faced in orange brick. The principal facade is symmetrical with a centrally located entrance incorporated within a receding semicircular arch and flanked by paired Corinthian pilasters. As in all of the buildings, the Model School Building retains original fenestration and detailing.

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The Duluth State Normal School Historic District nomination  
contains 4 contributing buildings.

# 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 checked="" 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 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**      See below      **Builder/Architect**      See below

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Main Building: 1898-1901, 1909, 1915, 1926  
 Washburn Hall: 1907  
 Torrance Hall: 1909  
 Model School Building: 1926

Main Building: Palmer, Hall and Hunt  
 Washburn Hall, Torrance Hall, Model School  
 Building: Clarence H. Johnston, Sr.

The Duluth State Normal School Campus is significant as an intact and cohesive grouping of buildings associated with the growth and development of the system of State Normal Schools (later Teachers' Colleges) in Minnesota. In addition, the Beaux Arts inspired Main Building is an architecturally significant structure in the City of Duluth.

Minnesota's normal schools were authorized by the first state legislature in 1858, and the first school opened in Winona in 1860. Others followed at Mankato (1868), St. Cloud (1869), Moorhead (1885), Duluth (1898), and Bemidji (1919). The schools offered an education curriculum with the main purpose of training teachers, and students who went on to teach in Minnesota schools were exempt from tuition. College level courses were added to the curriculum at the normal schools in ca.1910, and, in 1921, they were renamed "State Teachers' Colleges" and began to grant four year teaching degrees. The schools continued to specialize in teacher education for most of their history. The Duluth campus became part of the University of Minnesota in 1947. The others were renamed "State Colleges" in 1957, and by 1975, when renamed "State Universities", had diversified their purposes considerably. Southwest State College (1963) in Marshall and Metropolitan State College (1971) in the Twin Cities were established during this period.

Typically, the initial facility built to house the normal school was a main building that housed a wide range of functions, including classroom and office space, practice teaching laboratories (or "model schools"), and often dormitory facilities. After the turn of the century, practice teaching and dormitory functions were often accommodated in new separate structures, and the single-building institution began to expand into a campus of buildings.

Today, a number of buildings on the six campuses represent the development of the schools through the 1930s. Gone are the initial Victorian main buildings at Winona (built 1869, destroyed 1922); Mankato (built 1874, destroyed 1922); St. Cloud (built 1875, destroyed 1950), and Moorhead (built 1888, destroyed 1930). The only initial main buildings which remain are at Duluth (1901) and Bemidji (1919). Mankato (1924) and Winona (1924) have "second generation" main buildings. Model school buildings at St. Cloud (1911), Winona (1916), Duluth (1926), and Moorhead (1932), are extant, as are a number of early dormitory buildings at all six campuses.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet - page 3

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 10.5

Quadrangle name Duluth, MN.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

### UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property nominated is all that which is located within the East Lawn Division of Duluth, Block 29, Lots 1 through 18 including Block A and vacated West Parkway.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
-------	------------	------	------------	--------	------------	------	------------

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
-------	------------	------	------------	--------	------------	------	------------

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jay Baago and Lawrence Sommer Additional information provided by State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society,

organization St. Louis County Historical Society date July 15, 1984

street & number 506 West Michigan Street telephone 218-722-8011

city or town Duluth state Minnesota

# 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 Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/27/85

For HCRRS use only  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
[Signature] date 1/8/85  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration

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Most of the buildings remaining from this period are scattered among the scores of structures built as part of the aggressive building programs conducted during and after the 1950s. Only at Duluth (where the newer buildings that make up the greater portion of the University of Minnesota, Duluth campus were constructed on a separate Upper Campus a few blocks away) do we find a highly cohesive ensemble of structures which clearly represent the typical normal school/teacher's college campus, with a diversified main building, dormitory space, and a model school. Further, the elegance of the Renaissance Revival Main Building, built according to the designs of prominent Duluth architects Palmer, Hall, and Hunt,<sup>1</sup> make it an architectural highlight in Duluth. The Main Building is the earliest surviving building at any of the six campuses.

<sup>1</sup>Palmer, Hall, and Hunt were an important Duluth firm who designed several prominent structures during the 1890s and 1900s, including Irving School (1894), the Lonsdale Building (1895), and the Andrew Davidson (1902) and Frank Brewer (1902) residences. The predecessor to the firm, Palmer and Hall, designed the noted Duluth Central High School (1892), a classic Richardsonian Romanesque building.

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