

RS-1658



United States Department of Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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 St. Norbert College Historic District  
other names/site number

**2. Location**

street & number	Bounded by Grant Street ( north), Lee J. Roemer Mall (west), Marsh Street (south), and the west shore of the Fox River (east)	N/A	not for publication
city or town	De Pere	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI county Brown	code 009	zip code 54115

**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.)

*Danna J. Teubner*  
Signature of certifying official/Title

*3/6/2018*  
Date

State Historic Preservation Office - WI

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

St. Norbert College Historic District

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):

*Barbara Wyatt*  
Signature of the Keeper

*4-19-18*  
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
8	1 buildings sites structures objects
8	1 total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

1

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

EDUCATION/college

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

EDUCATION/college

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/ Late Gothic Revival

LATE VICTORIAN/Romanesque

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Classical Revival

MODERN MOVEMENT

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof Slate

other STONE

**Narrative Description**

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

**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)

- Education (A) \_\_\_\_\_
- Architecture (C) \_\_\_\_\_
- Religion (A) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

- 1898-1966 (A) \_\_\_\_\_
- 1890-1963 (C) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

- N/A \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

- N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

- N/A \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

- Reynolds, William E. \_\_\_\_\_
- Berners, Schober & Kilp \_\_\_\_\_
- Feldhausen & Coughlen \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

St. Norbert College Historic District  
Name of Property

Brown  
County and State

Wisconsin

### 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
- X 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:**

- X State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State Agency
  - Federal Agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - X Other
- Name of repository:  
Mulva Library, St. Norbert College

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 13 acres

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

1	<u>16</u>	<u>415110</u>	<u>4921900</u>	3	<u>16</u>	<u>415175</u>	<u>4921580</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>415300</u>	<u>4921890</u>	4	<u>16</u>	<u>415010</u>	<u>4921600</u>
	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	date	March 11, 2016
organization		Telephone	608-795-2650
street & number	6391 Hillsandwood Road	zip code	53560
city or town	Mazomanie	state	WI

St. Norbert College Historic District  
Name of Property

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### 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.)

<b>name/title</b>	St. Norbert College, Inc.	<b>date</b>	March 11, 2016
<b>organization</b>	Attn.: Vice President for Finance	<b>telephone</b>	
<b>street &amp; number</b>	400 First Street	<b>zip code</b>	54115
<b>city or town</b>	De Pere	<b>state</b>	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 Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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St. Norbert College Historic District  
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**Description:**

The St. Norbert College Historic District consists of a group of ten buildings that form the still largely intact historic core of the much larger forty-building St. Norbert College campus, which is located in the west portion of the city of De Pere. The St. Norbert College has an extremely prominent location on the west bank of the Fox River and its campus now occupies all the land south of the Claude Allouez Bridge to the north and to Stewart Street to the south, all the land on both sides of Third Street to the west, and all the land east to the Fox River, comprising some forty-nine contiguous acres in all. The buildings in the 13-acre St. Norbert College Historic District are located close to the center of this still expanding campus. While these buildings, constructed between 1890 and 1963, represent a variety of styles, they are unified by excellent design, produced by several of the best architects practicing in the nearby city of Green Bay, by their high degree of integrity, and by the fact that all ten are of masonry construction and are clad in brown or reddish brown brick trimmed with limestone.

The buildings in the district were originally constructed for three different reasons and are of three kinds: buildings that are associated with the original St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church parish; a building (St. Joseph Priory (later, Abbey) that was built to house the members of the Norbertine Order of the Roman Catholic Church; and buildings that were built specifically for College purposes. The earliest building in the District and the earliest and the only survivor of the first group, is the fine High Victorian Gothic Revival style St. Joseph Church that was completed in 1890 to replace the original parish church, which was built in 1871 and was destroyed by fire in 1889. This church is still in use today and its main north-facing façade is oriented towards the now partially vacated east-west-running Grant Street in front of it. The same orientation also characterizes the Neo-Classical Revival style 1926 wing of the St. Joseph Priory building next door to the east, whose main façade also faces north onto Grant Street.

The earliest building built exclusively for the use of St. Norbert College is Main Hall, an excellent example of Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style design that was listed in the NRHP October 28, 1988 (NRHP # 88002001). The building is oriented with its main façade facing west onto Lee J. Roemer Mall, which has replaced the now-vacated north-south running Second Street. Main Hall was constructed on land just to the southwest of St. Joseph Church that had been purchased by the Order for this purpose. This land was part of a larger parcel that was bounded by Second and Millar streets and by the Fox River. The gradual removal of the existing buildings that originally occupied the area provided the necessary land on which the future college campus would grow. The next two buildings built for College purposes were both constructed in 1917. These are: Francis H. Boyle Hall, a fine Neo-Classical Revival style, three-story building constructed on Grant Street just north of Main Hall with a principal façade that faces south towards that building; and the Heating Plant and Maintenance Building, originally a Neo-Classical style-inspired building that is located just behind both Main Hall and St. Joseph Church. These buildings were originally joined by the St. Joseph's parish school, built in 1917 on the north side of Grant Street; it was demolished in 2013.

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Thus, by 1917, six buildings comprised the core of what would become the current, much larger college campus. The St. Joseph Church and the St. Joseph's parish school still served some parish functions in 1917, while the other four were dedicated almost exclusively to College functions. Between 1917 and 1956, just two more buildings would be added to the campus. The first of these, the Tudor Revival style-influenced I. F. Van Dyke Hall, was built as a gymnasium in 1930 and is located on the Fox River to the southeast of Main Hall. The second building is Dennis M. Burke Hall, which was built on the Fox River just to the south of Van Dyck Hall in 1942. This excellent Neo-Classical Revival style building was the first residence dormitory built by the College. These were followed by two more fine Contemporary Style residence dormitories. The first one, Frank J. Sensenbrenner Hall, was built in 1956 just to the west of Dennis W. Burke Hall, and the second, Victor McCormick Hall, was built just to the west of Sensenbrenner Hall in 1963.

When the last building constructed in the St. Norbert College Historic District was completed in 1963, the campus was still a compact area that was surrounded on three sides by single family residences and on the fourth side by the Fox River. Since then, however, the campus has expanded enormously and all the single family residences that once surrounded it have now been replaced by modern college buildings built since 1956. Consequently, the ten buildings that comprise the St. Norbert College Historic District constitute a clearly defined and quite compact group of historic buildings that is located in the midst of the modern campus that has grown up around them. In addition, the district retains all but one of the historic buildings that were associated with the College prior to 1963.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The one campus building that was built prior to 1963 that is not included within the boundary of the District is Abbot Pennings Hall of Fine Arts, built in 1956, which has been greatly expanded and altered and now lacks historic integrity.

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**INVENTORY**

The following inventory lists every building in the District along with its original name, its construction date, its address, and also the resource's contributing (C), non-contributing (NC), or (NRHP) previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places, status. The abbreviations given below for architectural styles are the same abbreviations used by the Wisconsin Historical Society's Division of Historic Preservation. These are as follows:

- CON = Contemporary
- HVG = High Victorian Gothic
- NE = Neoclassical Revival
- RI = Richardsonian Romanesque
- TU = Tudor Revival

C	123	Grant St.	St. Joseph Church	1890	HVG
C/NRHP	400	First St.	Main Hall	1903	RI
C	163	Grant St.	Francis H. Boyle Hall	1917	NE
C	389	First St.	Heating Plant & Maintenance Building	1917/ 1963	CON
C	103	Grant St.	St. Joseph Priory	1926/ 1963	NE/CON
C	419	First St.	I. F. Van Dyke Hall	1930	TU
C	100	Marsh St.	Dennis M. Burke Hall	1942	NE
C	120	Marsh St.	Frank J. Sensenbrenner Hall	1956	CON
C	505	Third St.	Victor McCormick Hall	1963	CON
NC	123	Grant St.	St. Joseph Church Utility Building	1999	CON

What follows are brief descriptions of the District's resources, which are listed in chronological order by date of construction.

123 Grant St.                      St. Joseph Church                      1890/1926/1999                      C

St. Joseph Church is a rectilinear plan, High Victorian Gothic Revival style church building that was first constructed in 1889-90, remodeled in 1926, and remodeled again in 1999. The following is a contemporary description of the original Gothic Revival Style building:

By a look at the plans one can see that the new edifice will be a very handsome and substantial one. The main building will be 50x90 feet in size, and to these generous dimensions will be



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appended on the south or back end a structure 20 feet long, for sanctuary and vestry purposes, making the total length 110 feet. The walls will be of solid brick, and brick buttresses 13 feet apart from center to center along the side walls. The building will be 28 feet high from the ground to the eaves, and will be covered by a steep roof in the Gothic style, the interior of which will be finished in three arches, a principal arch in the center, paralleled by a smaller one on either side. ... As many members of the society were not in a position to aid by the donation of money, it was determined to have the church built by "day work" instead of by contract, and in pursuance of this plan the work is moving along nicely under the superintendence of Rev. Father Durin with Joseph LeClair as his right hand man in architecture and construction and Louis Duaimé as master carpenter, the individual members of the society responding generously to the call for work or money, or both.<sup>2</sup>

The building described above is still very much the core of the building that is visible today. The church measures 52-feet-wide and 115-feet-deep, it has stone foundation walls, and the walls that rest on this foundation are fashioned of red and brown bricks. The main façade, which faces north onto Grant Street, is symmetrical in design and three-bays-wide and it has a center steeple plan with the steeple projecting slightly from the façade and occupying the center bay. The main entrance to the church is located in the base of the steeple, a large rose window is placed above the entrance, and the steeple is flanked on either side by a large pointed arch window that is set into the façade. The east and west-facing side elevations of the church are each eight-bays-wide, the bays are separated from each other by projecting brick buttresses, and each bay contains a large pointed arch window. The rear south-facing elevation has a centered, projecting polygonal plan apse. This apse has a single pointed arch window placed on each of its two angled sides, and it is sheltered by a polygonal roof.<sup>3</sup>

The building retained its essentially undecorated exterior until 1926, when it was remodeled to designs supplied by Green Bay architect William E. Reynolds.<sup>4</sup> The results of this remodeling was that all of the projecting exterior surfaces on the church's main façade, west-facing side elevation, and portions of its east-facing side elevation, including its window and door surrounds, buttresses, and cornices, were all edged in stone, and a one-story-tall brick-clad narthex, or enclosed entrance porch, was placed across the full width of the main façade. This flat-roofed narthex is Tudor Revival Style-inspired and it is elaborately ornamented with stone trim, and features three, paired, wooden entrance doors, the center pair of which was originally sheltered by an even more elaborate brick and stone porte cochère that has recently been removed. The result is a building that it is more accurate to call an example of

<sup>2</sup> "The New St. Joseph's Church." *De Pere News*. September 21, 1889, p. 1. The three arches in the interior refer to the original design of the south end of the interior, the center arch of which defined the sanctuary, and the two smaller side arches, the flanking side altars.

<sup>3</sup> Foley, Betsy. "100 Years Ago: Old St. Joseph's Rises Again." Green Bay: *Voyageur Magazine*, Vol. 7, No. 2, Winter/Spring, 1991, pp. 51-52 (illustrated). This article gives a good general history of the church up to 1991.

<sup>4</sup> Original blueprints in the possession of Berners-Schober Associates, Inc., in Green Bay. Company archives, Stick No. 361.K.

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the High Victorian Gothic Revival style than the more sober Gothic Revival style design that preceded it, but it is, nevertheless, an excellent example of this style.

In 1999, yet another change was made to the church's exterior when a new enclosed atrium was built to cover the space between the church and a new detached wing that was built just to the east of the church. This new feature has a glass roof that is attached to the church and, as a result, the southernmost five bays of the east side of the original building are now under cover. Still, this new roof is only lightly attached to the church itself and the portion of the original side elevation of the church that is covered is still fully intact inside this new space.

The original interior of the church, however, has now been lost. This very elaborately decorated interior had plastered walls and a plastered multiple-arch ceiling, all of which were profusely decorated with 30 mural canvas paintings depicting the life of the Holy Family. In 1969, as a result of changes arising out of Vatican II, these paintings were removed along with statuary and other interior decorative features. In 1999, the construction of the atrium and other new features adjacent to the east side of the church was also accompanied by the removal of all the other original interior features inside the church. Today, the church has a hardwood floor, the plaster has been removed from the original brick walls, which are now exposed, and the original arched ceiling has also now been removed and the interior is open to the roof rafters. A number of the church's very fine original stained glass windows are still extant and still in place, and the building continues to serve as the parish church of the campus.

400 First St.                      Main Hall                      1903                      C / NRHP

The campus's Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style Main Hall was built in 1903 as the College's first purpose-built collegiate building. It was designed by Green Bay architect William E. Reynolds and is individually listed in the NRHP (#88002001).<sup>5</sup> The building is located to the southwest of St. Joseph Church, is rectilinear in plan, measures 116-feet-wide by 64-feet-deep, and is three-and-one-half-stories tall on a cut stone, raised foundation. A broad dressed ashlar limestone watercourse encircles the building just above the top of the building's foundation and the walls above that rest on this foundation are clad in orange brick.

The building's main façade faces west and is symmetrical in design and thirteen-bays-wide. The two end bays consist of twin four-story-tall octagonal plan corner towers that project out from the façade, the façade's center bay consists of a broad, slightly projecting gable-roofed pavilion that contains the main entrance door to the building in its first story and windows in its second and third stories that light the building's main staircase, and five bays are located on each side of this pavilion, each of

<sup>5</sup> Original blueprints in the possession of Berners-Schober Associates, Inc., in Green Bay. Company archives, Stick No. 361.E.

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which contains a single one-over-one-light window in each of its two stories. The façade's third story consists of the upper stories of the corner towers at either end, both of which are crowned by a polygonal plan eight-sided roof, while the upper story of the center pavilion is crowned by a wide gable-roofed dormer that contains a very large semi-circular stilted arch multi-pane window. Similar but even larger stilted arch windows are placed in the two slightly projecting wall dormers that crown the third, fourth and fifth, and the ninth, tenth, and eleventh bays from the right. The entire building is sheltered by a hipped and decked main roof, on whose flat surface is placed a small circular plan belvedere whose conical roof is supported by slender Doric order columns.

The north and south end elevations of the building are both asymmetrical in design and their dominant features are the four-story-tall corner towers that comprise their westernmost bays. A broad, gable-roofed wall dormer is roughly centered in the attic story on the remaining portion of each elevation. Four two-story-tall bays are placed below the dormer on the north-facing elevation, five are placed below the dormer on the south-facing one, and each bay contains, or once contained, a one-over-one-light window in each of its stories.

Main Hall's east-facing rear elevation is fifteen-bays-wide, and it also features three gable-roofed wall dormers in its attic story that are arrayed in a symmetrical fashion that corresponds to the position of the three dormers on the main façade. The overall design of this elevation, however, is asymmetrical. Placed just to the left (south) of the left-hand of these three dormers is a large, slightly projecting chimney stack that extends upward from ground level and pierces the cornice of the main roof as it terminates above roof level. In addition, a second main entrance door is located in this elevation's first story and it is placed between the first and second bays from the right (north). The remaining bays on this elevation are all two-stories-tall and each of these bays contains a one-over-one-light window in each of its stories.

Typical Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style features of the building's design include the use of contrasting smooth-faced brick and rock-faced stone, large arched openings, including the windows in the dormers on both the main façade and rear elevation and also the main entrances, which are both surmounted with semi-circular-arched transoms, the one on the main façade of which is also enframed with large stone voussoirs that are supported by two large stone dwarf columns as well, another typical feature of the style.

When it was first built, Main Hall contained almost all the functions of the College, including offices, classrooms, dormitory style living spaces, a kitchen, a dining room, an auditorium, and a library. As College needs changed and as new buildings became available, this interior was altered. Nevertheless, important features of the original interior such as the main staircase still remain. The building as a whole is in excellent condition and retains a very high degree of integrity; it is now mostly used for the College's administrative offices.

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163 Grant St.                      Francis H. Boyle Hall                      1917                      C

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Francis H. Boyle Hall is an excellent, multi-purpose, Neo-Classical Revival style building that was completed in 1917 and was designed by Green Bay architect William E. Reynolds.<sup>6</sup> The building is located just to the west of St. Joseph Church, is rectilinear in plan, and measures 180-feet-wide by 67-feet-deep. It is four-stories tall, has a reinforced concrete frame, and rests on a poured concrete foundation. The first story of the building is clad in dressed ashlar limestone, a broad dressed ashlar limestone watercourse encircles the building just above the top of the first story, building's foundation and the walls above that rest on this foundation are clad in dark brown brick. The building is crowned by tall brick parapet walls trimmed with cut limestone, which hide the building's flat roof from view.

The building's main façade faces south, is asymmetrical in design and nine-bays-wide, and is identical in every respect to, but is a mirror image of, the north-facing rear elevation of the building that faces onto Grant St. The first story of the center bay of the main façade contains the main entrance to the building, and its paired doors are enframed with transom lights and sidelights. These are all crowned with a projecting dressed limestone cornice that is supported by two limestone brackets. Two window openings are placed in the second story above this entrance and these windows and the entrance below are all sheltered by a classically derived two-story-tall projecting entrance porch that has a limestone entablature that is supported by a pair of two-story-tall fluted Doric Order limestone columns that each rest on square plan limestone plinths. The center bay is terminated by two pairs of triple window groups, one of which is placed in each of the two stories above. The rest of the façade is organized into bays whose stories each contain either triple or quadruple window groups. Historic photos of the building show that originally the first story of each of these bays contained a triple window group, the second story contained a quadruple window group, and the third and fourth stories of the four bays to the right (east) also each contained a triple window group as well. The windows in the third and fourth stories of the four left-hand (west) bays, however, originally provided light to a two-story-tall study hall inside and as a result, each of these bays originally had three superimposed triple window groups filling its third and fourth stories. All of the original one-over-one-light windows on this and on the rear and side walls of the building have been replaced with modern units and the middle window(s) in each group have now been filled in with brick or limestone.

The same alterations have also been made to the two side elevations of the building. Originally, the building's three-bay-wide west-facing side elevation contained triple window groups in the first and second stories of its left and right-hand bays while three superimposed triple window groups filled

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<sup>6</sup> Original blueprints in the possession of Berners-Schober Associates, Inc., in Green Bay. Company archives, Stick No. 361.I.

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their third and fourth stories.<sup>7</sup> The building's three-bay-wide east-facing side elevation, meanwhile, originally contained a triple window group in each story of its left and right-hand bays while the center bay contained a paired window group in each story. All of these window groups have now been altered in the same way as the ones on the principal elevations. Nevertheless, the exterior of the building is otherwise in excellent condition; alterations to the building's windows have done little to diminish the overall appearance of the building or to alter its contribution to the District.

When it was first built, Francis H. Boyle Hall housed a number of different functions of the College that were well described in a contemporary newspaper account:

The first floor will have a large reception room in the west end, and there will be an office, a library, a reading room, cloak rooms and other rooms on the floor. On the second floor there will be eight classrooms and two large sleeping rooms, or dormitories, one to accommodate 24 and the other 16. On the third floor will be a study room to the west end, and two large dormitories. The study room will extend to the roof, or the height of the two stories. The fourth floor will be devoted entirely to sleeping quarter purposes.<sup>8</sup>

Here again, as College needs changed and as new buildings became available, this interior was altered and the building's original windows were replaced with modern windows of similar design. The building as a whole is in excellent condition and retains good integrity; it is now mostly used for College classrooms and office space.

389 First St. Heating Plant & Maintenance Building 1917/1963 C

At the time that the new Francis H. Boyle Hall was being constructed, Main Hall, St. Norbert Priory, and St. Joseph Church and its parish school building were all heated separately. When Boyle Hall was constructed the desirability of building a new heating plant that would service them all became evident. As a result, Henry Boyle, the donor who funded Francis H. Boyle Hall, also agreed to fund the construction of a new heating plant facility at the same time. This new building was also built in 1917 just to the south of St. Joseph Church on the site of the old parish school building and it was also designed by William E. Reynolds, the architect of Boyle Hall.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup> The first three stories of this elevation's center bay are covered by a projecting, rectilinear plan, flat-roofed pavilion that houses a staircase.

<sup>8</sup> "New Building to Cost \$100,000." De Pere: *Brown County Democrat*, February 4, 1916, p. 1.

<sup>9</sup> Original blueprints in the possession of Berners-Schober Associates, Inc., in Green Bay. Company archives, Stick No. 361.H. The old parish school was replaced by a new parish school building designed by Reynolds that was located to the north of Boyle Hall on the other side of Grant St. This new school building was also built in 1917 and it was also heated by the new heating plant. The school demolished it in 2013 to make way for the new Gehl-Mulva Science Center.

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The new heating plant building had a rectilinear plan, was one-story, and measured 78-feet-wide by 37-feet-deep. The building was clad in orange brick, had a reinforced concrete floor, and historic photos of the building show that it originally had a modest, Neo-Classical Revival style-inspired design that gave the building very simple corner pilasters and crowned it with a parapet wall trimmed with limestone. A chimney stack having a tall orange brick base that was surmounted by a much taller tapering cream brick shaft was also placed in the building's northeast corner. In 1963, however, this building was altered. The resulting Contemporary style building, designed by Berners, Schober, & Kilp, also has orange brick-clad walls, a reinforced concrete floor, and a rectilinear plan of the same dimensions as the original building. The remodeled building is devoid of any ornamentation, none of the original building's windows were retained in the rebuilding and their numbers were also greatly reduced. The building's overall design is simpler, and the only original exterior feature that was retained is the chimney stack, which was reduced in size. In addition, little if any of the original equipment inside the building has been retained either.

These changes notwithstanding, the present building continues to serve the same purpose as the original, it is more than fifty-years old, it still retains the appearance it received after it was remodeled in 1963 and it is therefore considered to be a contributing resource in the District.

103 Grant St.                      St. Joseph Priory                      1926/1963                      C

The original portion of this building was begun in 1925 and completed in 1926 as an addition to an existing three-story building, constructed in 1910. This new block was designed in the Neo-Classical Revival style by William E. Reynolds and it is three-stories-tall, it has a rectilinear plan that measures 76-feet-wide by 40-feet-deep, and it rests on a poured concrete foundation.<sup>10</sup> The raised basement story of the building is clad in dressed ashlar limestone, a broad dressed ashlar limestone watercourse encircles the building just above the top of this story, the walls above are clad in dark brown brick, and tall brick parapet walls are trimmed with cut limestone. The parapet hides the building's flat roof from view.

The building's main façade faces north onto Grant Street and it largely symmetrical in design and six-bays-wide. The two end bays both project out slightly from the rest of the façade and the only difference between them is that the one on the right (west) contains the main entrance to the building in its first story, which entrance is accessed by ascending a flight of four concrete steps. This entrance contains its original pair of one-light-over-one panel wood doors. These doors are flanked by sidelights and are surmounted by a multiple-light, semi-circular, arched transom. This entrance is flanked by paneled stone pilasters on each side and above which is a simplified, classically derived stone entablature. A triple window group is located in the second story and another triple window

<sup>10</sup> Original blueprints in the possession of Berners-Schober Associates, Inc., in Green Bay. Company archives, Stick No. 361.F.

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group having a Palladian design is placed in the third story and is surmounted by a stone pediment that is broken at its base. The left-hand (east) bay, meanwhile, has a short, triple-window group in its basement story and taller triple-window groups in each of its three upper stories, the uppermost of which also has a Palladian design and is surmounted by a stone pediment that is broken at its base. Each story of the four center bays contains a pair of windows, those in the basement story being shorter than those above. All the windows in these groups and in the triple-window groups contain original six-light over-one light, double-hung windows; the rest of the windows on this block are similar.

The east-facing side elevation of the 1926 block faces the Fox River and is three-bays-wide. The center bay projects outward from the rest of the elevation and contains a staircase. The basement level of this bay is hidden from view by a flat-roofed porch that is partially clad in the same limestone blocks as the basement story and which has a brick upper portion. A paired window group is placed between the first and the second stories and another paired window group is placed in the bay's third story. The bay is surmounted by a full stone pediment whose base is formed by the stone cornice that encircles the building and which is affixed to the parapet wall. The two flanking bays each have paired window groups in their first, second, and third stories, and the basement story of the left-hand (south) bay has a shorter pair of windows placed in it while the basement story of the left-hand bay contains an entrance door that is surmounted by a transom light.

The rear south-facing elevation of the 1926 block is five-bays-wide and the right-hand (east) bay projects out slightly from the main wall surface. This bay has a triple window group in each of its stories, the one in the basement level being shorter, the second bay from the right has paired window groups in just its second and third stories, the third bay from the right has a paired window group in its basement and first stories and single windows in its second and third stories, the fourth bay from the right has a single window in all of its stories, and the fifth bay from the right has paired window groups in its first, second, and third stories.

What would have been the rear elevation's sixth bay is now covered over by a three-and-one-half story windowless brick clad hyphen that connects the 1926 block to the larger 1963 wing. This wing replaced the first portion of the building built in 1910 that was demolished to make room for the new Contemporary style wing, designed by Berners, Schober & Kilp of Green Bay. The new wing is three-stories-tall, it is 43-feet-wide by 125-feet-deep, it has a poured concrete foundation, and its principal elevations face east and west and have walls that are partially clad in brick and partially in precast concrete panels.

The west-facing elevation of this wing is seven-bays-wide and it is enframed by a flat, concrete, full-height pilaster at either end and by a similar-width flat concrete cornice above. Each bay is clad in variegated brick and it is separated from the next bay by another full-height concrete pilaster.

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Centered on each of these bays are triple window groups, one per story, that each contains three one-over-one-light windows. These window groups are separated from each other vertically by pre-cast concrete spandrels. The only exception to this is the third bay from the right (south), which contains a door in its first story and whose upper stories are covered with a metal grill that hides the windows behind that light a staircase from view. The east-facing elevation of this wing is six-bays-wide and its bays are identical to those on the west-facing elevation and they each have triple window groups in each story that are separated by concrete spandrels.

The south-facing end elevation of this wing is one-bay-wide and it contains a door in its first story and pair of windows in its second and third stories, all of which were once covered by grillwork like the grillwork that covers the third bay from the right on the wing's west-facing elevation. This end of the building is now attached to a one-story-tall Astylistic Utilitarian form brick-clad garage addition that was built in 1999.

The 1926 block of this building served from 1926 until 1959 as the abbey of the Norbertine Order and the living quarters for members of the Order. When the Order built a new and much larger abbey in east De Pere in 1959 this block then reverted to being a priory of the Order and became the home of those members of the Order who were active in St. Joseph's Parish and St. Norbert College. In 2016, the Order sold this building to the College, which plans to renovate it and repurpose it for student housing.

419 First St.                                      I. F. Van Dyke Hall                                      1930/2000                                      C

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Prior to the construction of this building in 1930, student athletic needs were met by a modest brick and concrete building that had been built on the campus in 1911. By 1929, though, the College was in need of enlarged and more modern facilities and it was this need that the original portion of today's building was designed to meet. Originally known just as "The Gym" but renamed for the College's first student, Father Frank Van Dyke, in 1945, this Tudor Revival style-influenced 137-foot-deep by 89-foot-wide building was designed by Green Bay architect William E. Reynolds and was completed in 1930.<sup>11</sup> The building sits on a site that is located just to the southeast of Main Hall. This site slopes steeply down to the Fox River, and as a result, much of the basement story of the building is visible above grade. A poured concrete foundation underlies the building, the raised basement story's walls are clad in dressed limestone, and the walls above that rest on the basement story are clad in dark brown brick.

An excellent description of the building, published in the local newspaper as construction started, is helpful in explaining the building's original appearance:

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<sup>11</sup> Original blueprints in the possession of Berners-Schober Associates, Inc., in Green Bay. Company archives, Stick No. 361.L.



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The gymnasium will be a model of practicability. It will consist of two units. The western-most will be an entrance structure with massive twin towers. Behind this and [to] the east will stretch the second unit of two stories housing on the first floor the athletic service rooms, and the 80 by 110-foot playing floor above it.<sup>12</sup>

The main façade of the original "entrance structure" portion of the building faces west and it is three-bays-wide. The two end bays are treated as square plan, three-story-tall corner towers whose corners are enriched with stone trim lay in an in-and-out pattern bond and whose crowning parapet walls are crenellated. The west-facing elevations of these two towers are identical and they both contain a paired window opening in their raised basement stories and in each of the three stories above, and these openings all contain one-over-one-light windows. In addition, the right-hand (south) tower is also surmounted by a circular observatory as well whose base is clad in brown brick and whose domed roof is clad in metal. The middle bay of this façade contains the main entrance to the building, the original one of which had twin doors each of which was surmounted by a single window, but this entrance has now been covered over by a semi-circular plan glass-walled entrance porch and the windows have been removed. Placed above the entrance in the second story is another paired window group whose windows are wider than the ones in the flanking bays and placed above this pair is yet another much thinner pair that is set into the tall gable end that crowns this bay.

The original building's south-facing side elevation is seven-bays-wide, with the left-hand (west) bay being the slightly projecting south side of the southernmost of the main façade's two corner towers, while the remaining six bays are associated with the "second unit" mentioned above. The left-hand bay has a paired window opening in its raised basement story and in each of the three stories above, and these openings all also contain one-over-one-light windows. The remaining six bays of this elevation are separated from one another by projecting buttress-like pilasters and they were originally identical to each other and all but one still are. Originally, each bay contained a paired group of windows in its basement story and another larger pair in the story above, the larger pairs being the ones that provide light to the gymnasium space inside. The basement story and part of the first story of the left-hand (west) bay of these six bays, however, is now covered over by a small, modern, shed-roofed, brick-clad, one-story-tall pavilion.

The original building's east-facing rear elevation faces towards and is immediately adjacent to the Fox River and it is three-bays-wide. The bays are separated from one another by projecting buttress-like pilasters. The downward slope of its site allowed it to have a fully exposed sub-basement story as well as a fully exposed basement story. Both the left-hand (south) and right-hand bays originally had two

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<sup>12</sup> "Ground Broken for College Gymnasium." *De Pere Journal-Democrat*, November 14, 1929, pp. 1, 8. See also: "Contractor Clark Starts on New Gym." *De Pere Journal-Democrat*, March 13, 1930, p. 1; *De Pere Journal Democrat*, April 3, 1930, p. 1 (illustrated).

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single window openings in their sub-basement story, a paired window group above in their basement story, and another paired window group in their first story, the latter groups of which provided light for the gymnasium space inside. The center bay had a large door opening in its sub-basement story, a paired window group above in its basement story, and a very large multi-light single window that has a semi-circular-arched upper portion was placed in its first story and it too provided light to the gymnasium.

**Rear Addition**

A large-scale remodeling and expansion of the building took place in 2000 which resulted in changes to this elevation. This project built a terrace across the width of the original south-facing rear elevation of the building that extends outward from the basement story and hides the sub-basement story from view. The paired basement story window groups in the two end bays were enlarged while the group in the center bay was replaced by a curved, one-story, flat-roofed, limestone-clad pavilion that has three large triple window groups set into its curved walls. The first story, however, was left essentially unchanged.

The same project that expanded the building in 2000 resulted in the construction of a large Contemporary style two-story addition to the building that now covers all of the six original bays that were located on the "second unit" portion of the original building's north-facing side elevation. This addition was designed by Performa, Inc., Architects, located in De Pere, and although it is nearly as large as the original building, its exterior was carefully designed so as to compliment the original. The exterior of this addition employs the same cladding materials as the original: dressed limestone blocks for the basement levels, and brown brick edged with limestone trim laid in an in-and-out pattern bond for the upper two stories. The apparent mass of the new addition was also minimized by having its several units grow progressively wider as they step down the slope towards the river, where it then culminates in a large two-story pavilion whose wall are mostly glass but whose windows are still set within a brick framework that is edged with stone. Most of the windows on the west and north sides are paired and designed to duplicate the look of those of the original main façade's twin towers.

Today, this building now serves as a student center and has been renamed the Ray Van Den Heuvel Family Campus Center. Fortunately, because of the care that was taken in remodeling and expanding the original building, most of that building still retains its original appearance today. In addition, the building's original gymnasium space, with its white tile walls and hardwood floor, has been restored, is in excellent condition, and is currently in use for campus events and graduation exercises.

100 Marsh St.

Dennis M. Burke Hall

1942

C

Dennis M. Burke Hall, known originally just as "Residence Hall," was completed in 1942 and was the first building on campus designed specifically to be a residence hall. The building was designed by

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the Green Bay firm of Feldhausen & Coughlen and it is the finest example of the Neo-Classical Revival style in De Pere.<sup>13</sup> The building has a U-plan, it measures 190-feet in length, its two end wings are 70-feet-deep, it has a reinforced concrete framework and a poured concrete foundation, the walls that rest on this foundation are clad in red brick, and the building is sheltered by a multi-hip roof. The site of the building lies adjacent to the Fox River and the slope of the site allows portions of the lowest story of the building to be fully exposed under its south wing.

The main façade faces west and it is symmetrical in design, 190-feet-wide and three-stories-tall and it rests on a raised basement story. The walls of both the basement story and the upper stories are clad in red brick and a broad limestone belt course encircles the building just above the basement story's window heads. This façade is seventeen-bays-wide, and the middle three bays consist of a slightly projecting full height, three-story entrance portico that contains the main entrance to the building in its center bay. This entrance is reached by ascending a short flight of stairs and it contains a six-light-over-two-panel door that is flanked by six-light sidelights and is topped by a fourteen-light transom. This entrance is then enframed by a limestone surround that is topped by a broken pediment supported by console brackets. A tall, multi-light, semi-circular-arched window that is also enframed in stone is placed in the second story above this entrance and a smaller paired window group is placed in the third story above the one in the second story. The two bays flanking the center bay are identical to each other and both contain a tall multi-light semi-circular-arched window in their first story that is enframed in stone, a stone plaque that bears a raised coat of arms is placed above each of these windows, and their third stories both each contain a paired window group. This pavilion is sheltered by a full height limestone portico that consists of four colossal order Ionic order limestone columns that are doubled by limestone pilasters. The columns support a full triangular limestone pediment whose tympanum is clad in brick and has a bull's-eye window centered in it. The other fourteen bays on this façade (seven on each side of the portico) are all identical in design and each has a window opening in the basement story and another in each of the three stories above. These openings (and almost all of the building's other window openings) now contain a pair of modern operable one-light casement windows that have a fixed one-light transom above them. Originally these openings contained a pair of operable six-light metal sash casement windows that had a four-light transom-like sash placed below them.

The north-facing side elevation of the building is six-bays-wide and is asymmetrical in design. The first and second and the sixth and seventh bays from the right (west) are identical and they each have a window opening in the basement story and another in each of the three stories above. The three middle bays, however, are placed closer together than the other four and while the third bay from the right also has a window opening in its basement story and another in each of the three stories above, the fourth bay from the right has no window openings in its basement story, and the fifth bay from the

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<sup>13</sup> Original blueprints in the possession of Berners-Schober Associates, Inc., in Green Bay. Company archives, Stick No. 361.D.

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right only has window openings in its second and third stories. The first story of the fifth bay contains a side entrance that now contains a modern one-light door, but it retains its original stone surround, having a full triangular stone pediment supported by console brackets.

The south-facing side elevation is similar in appearance to the north side except that the slope of the site allows the basement story to be fully exposed. Here the walls of this story consist of the concrete foundation of the building rather than the red brick found elsewhere.

The east-facing rear elevation of the building faces the Fox River. It is symmetrical in design and features two projecting wings at either end that flank the wider center section. These wings are identical in design and they are each three-bays-wide and there is a window opening in the basement story of each bay and another in each of the three stories above. The only difference between them being that the south wing's basement story also has a sub-basement story visible below it that contains two large triple window groups. The center section of this elevation is dominated by another projecting full-height portico, identical to the one on the main façade except that here the slope of the site has meant that the portico rests on an open, arcaded, reinforced concrete one-story-tall base. The wall surface that is sheltered by this portico also differs from the one on the main façade in that the first story of the end two of its three bays both contain multi-light doors that have a stone surround and full triangular stone pediments supported by console brackets. A window opening is located in both the second and third stories above each of these entrances; the middle bay has a window opening in its second and third stories but has no opening in its first story. The other fourteen bays (seven on each side of the portico) are all identical in design and they each have a window opening in the basement story and another in each of the three stories above.

A local newspaper story that was printed as excavations began provides a good summary of the interior layout of the building as it was initially planned:

Included in the residence hall will be 75 private rooms for 150 resident students, a dining hall to accommodate the entire student body, six rooms for lay faculty members, and a like number for prefects along with a lounge and numerous other features. It will be three floors in height with a full basement, of Georgian Colonial design. ... It will be E-shaped with the central part 190 feet in length and the outside wings 57½ feet. The center of the E will have a lower terrace section with the student's rooms in the wings each headed by the prefects quarters. In the center of the front section will be a reception center with the dining hall, cafeteria and service fountain in the basement and the lay faculty members' rooms on the third floor.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> "Begin Excavations On Residence Hall." *De Pere Journal-Democrat*, August 7, 1941, p. 4.

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Dennis M. Burke Hall is still used as a residence hall today and while changes have been made to the interior over time, the beautifully designed woodwork in the reception area is still intact. The exterior has been minimally altered.

120 Marsh St. Frank J. Sensenbrenner Hall 1956 C

Frank J. Sensenbrenner Hall was the second building constructed on the campus specifically for student residential use and it was designed in a Contemporary style by the Green Bay firm of Berners, Schober & Kilp and was completed in 1956.<sup>15</sup> This building has an L-plan, it is three-stories-tall with a full basement story, its foundation is poured concrete, and the walls are of red brick and terminate at a shallow brick parapet wall that hides the building's flat roof from view. The principal façade faces north towards Main Hall, is 193-feet-wide, sixteen-bays-wide, and is symmetrical in design. The first (west) and last (east) bays from the right both contain single window openings in each of their first three stories. The remaining bays all have paired oblong window groups in each of their three stories with the exception of the fourth bay from the left and the fourth bay from the right. Both of these bays contain building entrances in their first stories and while the rest of the building is resolutely Contemporary in design, these identical entrances have classical designs that represent the architect's attempt at linking this new building to the older ones on the campus.<sup>16</sup> Both of these entrances contain a pair of non-original one-light doors that are surmounted by a single transom light. These doors are enframed in dressed stone and are each surmounted by a broken stone pediment. A large multi-light window having a semi-circular-arched upper portion is placed above each of these entrances, is enframed in stone and provides light for a staircase inside.

The west-facing side elevation of the building is 97-feet-wide, is asymmetrical in design, and seven-bays-wide and it constitutes the short wing of the L-plan. The left-hand (north) bay of this elevation is offset to the left of the other six bays and it contains a single window opening in each of its three stories, while the remaining six bays all have paired oblong window groups in each of their three stories.

The 193-foot-wide south-facing rear elevation of the building is comprised of the 38-foot-wide end elevation of the short wing of the L-plan and the 155-foot-wide elevation of the long wing of this L-plan building. The elevation of the short wing is symmetrical in design and has a single bay centered on it that contains a single window opening in each of its three stories. The elevation of the long wing is thirteen-bays-wide and each bay has a paired oblong window group in each of its three stories.

<sup>15</sup> Original blueprints in the possession of Berners-Schober Associates, Inc., in Green Bay. Company archives, Stick No. 361.K. See also: "Norbertines Will Dedicate New Buildings." *De Pere Journal-Democrat*, May 31, 1956, pp. 1, 8-10 (illustrated).

<sup>16</sup> The same might also be said for the use of red brick as a cladding material, the placing of a stone keystone in the middle of the brick lintels that surmount every window group, and respecting the prevailing three-story height of the neighboring Dennis M. Burke Hall.

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The 97-foot-wide east-facing side elevation of the building is comprised of the east-facing elevation of the short wing and the south-facing elevation of the long wing. The 59-foot-wide east-facing elevation of the short wing is five-bays-wide and is symmetrical in design and its center bay contains a classically designed entrance in its first story and a large window above that is identical to the ones described earlier on the north-facing main elevation. The other four bays all have paired oblong window groups in each of their three stories. The 38-foot-wide south-facing elevation of the long wing is asymmetrical in design and is three-bays-wide. There are no openings in the left-hand (south) bay but the other two each contain a single window opening in each of their three stories.

When completed this building had a capacity of 180 students sharing ninety rooms and contained a lounge room, various activity rooms, a chapel, two-suites per floor for house counselors, and the College's nursery school.<sup>17</sup> Today, the building still serves as a residential hall and the nursery school is still in business as well.

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505 Third St.	Victor McCormick Hall	1963	C
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Victor McCormick Hall was the third building constructed on the campus specifically for student residential use, designed in the Contemporary style by the Green Bay firm of Berners, Schober & Kilp and completed in 1963.<sup>18</sup> The building has an "O" plan, it being constructed around a courtyard that is open to the sky, and it is three-stories-tall, with a full basement story, its foundation is poured concrete, the walls above this foundation are mostly clad in red brick, they are crowned with a wide cornice, and the building has a flat roof. A description published in the local newspaper is useful in understanding the building's overall design:

The men's dormitory is rectangular in shape with an outdoor courtyard located in the center of the structure. It is unique for a residence hall in that entry is gained only from the outside of the building: there are no hallways. It is a three-story building and occupants of the upper floors will enter from a motel-like ramp. The dormitory has 37 four-bed units and two two-bed units along with accommodations for one counselor. It is planned that only seniors and honor roll students will use this building. Each unit or suite consists of two rooms plus closet space and bath.<sup>19</sup>

This building was designed to house 232 students and the motel-like ramps mentioned above were located at each of the four inset corners of the building. Originally, these ramps were to be roofed

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<sup>17</sup> Pieters, Donald L. *Building and Memorials: Millennium 2000*. De Pere: St. Norbert College, 2000, p. 13.

<sup>18</sup> Original blueprints in the possession of Berners-Schober Associates, Inc., in Green Bay. Company archives, Stick No. 361.F.

<sup>19</sup> "College Tells Plans For Two New Dormitories." *De Pere Journal-Democrat*, August 16, 1962, pp. 1, 8 (illustrated).

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over but they were also meant to be open to the outside, which would not have been an optimal situation in the winter. Consequently, when the building was constructed, these ramps were enclosed and more conventional staircases were built instead.

The 184-foot-wide principal façade of the building faces east towards Frank J. Sensenbrenner Hall is eight-bays-wide and the enclosed staircases that are placed at either end constitute the two end bays. These staircases are enclosed on two sides by walls composed of multiple glass single lights that are placed within a grid of metal muntins and mullions. In between these bays, the rest of the façade projects outward and the face of this projection is clad in brick and six V-shaped three-story-tall bays are arrayed across it. Each story of these bays has a pair of single light windows placed on both of its two sides and they meet at the apex of the V to form a single V-shaped quadruple window group. Cast concrete spandrels are placed above and below each of these window groups and each of these bays are separated from the next by a three-story-tall portion of the façade's flat brick-clad wall surface.

The 110-foot-wide north-facing side is similar in design but it is only six-bays-wide and the enclosed staircases that are placed at either end constitute its two end bays. The left-hand (east) staircase is shared with the main façade and it is enclosed with glass walls on both sides, but the right-hand (west) staircase only has a glass wall enclosing its north-facing side; the west-facing side is clad in brick. The remainder of this elevation is identical to that of the main façade but here the projecting central portion possesses just four V-shaped three-story-tall bays.

The 184-foot-wide rear elevation of the building faces west and it is also eight-bays-wide and the enclosed staircases that are placed at either end constitute the two end bays. On this elevation, both of the two enclosed staircases have west-facing walls that are clad in brick (their north and south facing walls are enclosed with glass). Otherwise, the design of this elevation is identical with that of the main façade and its projecting central portion possesses six V-shaped three-story-tall bays.

The 110-foot-wide south-facing side elevation of the Hall is identical in design to the north-facing side elevation described above. The right-hand (east) staircase is shared with the main façade and it is enclosed with glass walls on both sides, but the left-hand (west) staircase only has a glass wall enclosing its south-facing side; the west-facing side is clad in brick.

The interior courtyard's bays are separated from each other by thin brick partition walls, there being six bays on each long side and four on each shorter side. Both the second and third stories of these bays have deep, concrete-floored balconies and the windows and a door in each of the Hall's dorm rooms look out onto these balconies. The Hall is still in use as a dormitory and it is original condition.

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123 Grant St.                      St. Joseph Church Utility Building                      1999                      NC

In 1999, extensive renovation and remodeling work was undertaken to address shortcomings of St. Joseph Church, such as an inadequate gathering space, inadequate support facilities including bathrooms and air conditioning, and a lack of meeting rooms. To address these shortcomings it was decided to build a separate one-story utility building just to the east of the church that would contain a parlor, bathrooms, a sacristy, utilities, and basement level meeting rooms. This building has a Contemporary style design, is free-standing, rectilinear in plan, and one-story. It is clad in brick, has a flat roof, and has three, pointed arch windows that face north onto Grant Street and three flat-arch windows that face south onto a landscaped lawn.

To create a satisfactory gathering space for the church, the rectangular space between the church and its new utility building was enclosed with glass end walls and a sloping glass roof. In addition, a brick-walled entrance vestibule was placed in the glass wall located at the north end of this space and the entrance to a new, very fine brick-clad octagonal plan oratory structure was placed in the glass wall that is located at the south end of this space. The metal framework that supports this glass-enclosed space was designed so as to have the lightest possible impact on the church and the entire ensemble subsequently won two national architectural awards, the 2000 Religious Art and Architecture Design Award sponsored by Faith and Form Magazine and the Interfaith Forum on Religion and Art (IFRAA), and the Eugene Potente Liturgical Design Award.

Despite its award-winning design, this building is of too recent a date to be considered as a contributing resource in the District.

**Integrity**

As is typical of older collegiate buildings elsewhere in the state, all of the older buildings in the District have received alterations over the years, both to their exteriors and their interiors. The most typical alterations that have affected the exteriors have been window replacements. Two of the buildings, St. Joseph Priory, and I. F. Van Dyke Hall, have also received large additions. The interiors of the District's oldest building have received more substantial alterations, but this is also typical of older collegiate buildings. Overall, the buildings in the District generally reflect a high degree of integrity and are well maintained. All of the buildings in the District would be instantly recognizable to the many generations of alumni that they served. The College's administration has been consistently respectful of the older buildings in its care and has taken pains to ensure that their overall integrity has been respected.



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**Significance**

*Architecture*

The St. Norbert College Historic District is located on the banks of the Fox River in the city of De Pere and contains ten buildings that constitute the historic core of the campus of St. Norbert College, a thriving Roman Catholic liberal arts college, founded in 1898, and the most important educational institution in De Pere. Individually, the buildings in the district are fine, highly intact examples of the High Victorian Gothic Revival, Richardsonian Romanesque Revival, Neo-Classical Revival, and Contemporary styles. The buildings were constructed between 1890 and 1963. The four earliest of these buildings are the finest examples of their respective styles in De Pere. The district's earliest building is St. Joseph Church, which was built as a parish church in 1890. The district's next four earliest buildings were all designed by William E. Reynolds, an architect who practiced in Green Bay, while the newest three were designed by the firm of Berners, Schober and Kilp, another prominent Green Bay architectural firm. The district is significant under NR Criterion C, in the area of Architecture for its collection of architecturally significant buildings. These buildings comprise almost all of the buildings that were associated with the history of the College prior to 1963. These buildings form a readily identifiable historic core despite being surrounded on three sides by the greatly expanded campus of the College.

*Education and Religion*

The St. Norbert College Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance in the area of Education for its role in the history of higher education in the region. For much of its history, St. Norbert College was the only institution of higher learning in De Pere and in the entire northeastern part of Wisconsin. The District contains all of the buildings associated with the history and development of the College from its founding in 1898 until 1964, when the UW-Green Bay's campus was begun some ten miles to the north.<sup>20</sup> During this period the College evolved from a campus containing a single all-purpose building built in 1903 and a student body of 40 into a multi-building campus that housed a student body of 1700 in 1968. In the process, the College became one of the important Catholic educational campuses in Wisconsin; in De Pere it was arguably the city's most important educational institution. The St. Norbert College Historic District is locally significant under NR Criterion A for both its association with the history of higher education and for its association with the Norbertine religious order in De Pere.

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<sup>20</sup> The Period of Significance for History extends from the College's founding in 1898 to 1966, the current NR's 50-year rule cutoff date.

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*Criteria Consideration A*

Ordinarily, buildings belonging to religious institutions are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places unless the buildings meet the requirements of Criteria Consideration A, which states that such resources must be: "A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance."<sup>21</sup> The St. Norbert College Historic District meets the requirements of Criterion A. The buildings in the District embody architectural distinction because they are fine examples of various architectural styles and they are also fine examples of the work of the prestigious Green Bay architectural firms of William E. Reynolds, Feldhausen & Coughlen, and Berners, Schober, and Kilp. The District also has historic distinction for its importance to the history of education in northeast Wisconsin. During the period of significance for history, 1898-1966, the College was the only degree-granting institution of higher learning in this part of Wisconsin. The College played an important part in the social, educational, and economic life of the city of De Pere since its founding in 1898 and it continues to do so today. The buildings that are included in the District are all associated with the historic evolution of the College until 1966, the end of the period of significance.

**Contextual History**

A detailed history of the city of De Pere and its built resources is embodied in the *City of De Pere Intensive Survey Report*, written in 2001.<sup>22</sup> Consequently, the following deals primarily with the history of St. Norbert College itself and with the surrounding area.

Like most other early Wisconsin communities, the city of De Pere owes its existence to its proximity to water, which provided the state's first settlers with transportation routes, a reliable and easily accessible source of potable water, and the only readily available means of generating power for industrial purposes before steam power became wide spread. De Pere is situated on both banks of the Fox River at a point located some five miles south of the mouth of the river, which empties into Green Bay and Lake Michigan. Because there was a considerable rapids at this location, further navigation upstream was impossible in the days before a lock and canal system was developed.

The city of De Pere has the distinction of being one of the oldest points of European-American settlement in Wisconsin. The first European to see it was, in all probability, Jean Nicolet in 1634, who claimed the surrounding territory for France. In time, Nicolet was followed by two Jesuit missionaries, Fathers Allouez and Andre, who established a mission at the first rapids of the Fox River in 1670. In

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<sup>21</sup> National Register Bulletin 16. *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. U.S. Government Printing Office, 1991, p. 37.

<sup>22</sup> Heggland, Timothy F. *City of De Pere Intensive Survey Report*. De Pere: City of De Pere, 2001.

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1671 the fathers erected a chapel and residence on the east shore of the river, which became their headquarters. These were the first buildings constructed on the future site of today's city. In 1675 this chapel burned and several new, more substantial log structures, including a church, were built in its place. This mission, known as St. Francis Xavier Mission at Rapids des Peres, lasted for almost twelve years but was burned by the Native Americans in 1687 and the subsequent history of this place was then subsumed into the larger history of the French and English contests for supremacy in the region followed by the English and American ones.<sup>23</sup>

It was not until the creation of the Military road system in 1832 in what was soon to become the Territory of Wisconsin that interest in the possibilities of utilizing the rapids at De Pere began to stir interest. The construction of the first of these roads from Fort Howard on the Fox River at Green Bay to Fort Crawford on the Mississippi River at Prairie Du Chien established the first road across the territory and brought wagon and foot traffic up and down the river and past the future site of De Pere. But this opening up of the region was of only limited value to any economically significant movement of goods, and hopes fastened instead on improving the Fox River, which was navigable for much of its length but needed to be linked with the Wisconsin River in order to become a link between the Mississippi and the Great Lakes.

While work commenced elsewhere on the Fox-Wisconsin rivers waterway, others were laying claim to the heavily forested land that surrounded the site of what was to become De Pere. In 1835, the De Pere Hydraulic Co. was formed and one of its first acts was to purchase a 100 acre plat of land on the east bank of the river abutting the rapids. A portion of this land was then platted into lots, which was called the Plat of the Town of De Pere, a contraction of the French "Des Peres."

The following year the company started construction of a dam above the rapids that could be used to tap the water power potential of the river, and when the dam was completed in 1837, the future growth of the city seemed assured. This growth did not materialize immediately, because the company lacked the resources to harness the water power potential and the situation was exacerbated when the dam washed out in 1847. It was only when a new dam was built in the following year that real efforts were made to harness the resulting water power for industrial purposes and it is from this date that the real growth of the future city begins.

Proximity to the Fox River was the critical factor in the establishment of the communities on both sides of the river. The early 1800s was 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,

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<sup>23</sup> Maes, Matthew J. "The History of Brown County and De Pere, Wisconsin." De Pere: *Brown County Democrat*: April 3, 1914, p. 9 and April 10, 1914, p. 9.

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that portion of the river between these rapids and Lake Michigan gradually developed into an important Great Lakes port. 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, saw mills, flour and grist mills, and other industries that could make use of the power that would be generated by mechanically harnessing the now somewhat regulated flow of the river.

By 1850 the population of the area had grown to 500 and an event of enormous importance for inhabitants on both sides of the river took place. The first bridge across the river just below the dam, a toll bridge, was constructed which provided a vital transportation link whose importance would continue to grow in the years to come.

*Commercial Development*

The earliest commercial activity that took place within and around what is today the city of De Pere was conducted by merchants catering to traffic moving up and down the old Military roads on the east and west banks of the Fox River. It was not until the first dam was built across the rapids at De Pere in 1836-37 and especially after the first bridge connecting the east and west sides of the river was built across the top of the dam in 1850-1851. It was then that commercial activity at the De Pere site began in earnest. Because this bridge and its successors were the only ones in the entire area that crossed the river for a number of years thereafter, land near the bridge site on both sides of the river quickly evolved into hubs of both industrial and retail commercial activity.

In 1852, Chicagoan Robert Ritchie and his brother-in-law, Andrew Reid, built a saw mill (non-extant) at the west end of the bridge and three years later Capt. Elias Sorenson started a shipyard (non-extant) on the west bank of the river north of the bridge. The following year, a saw mill and agricultural implement factory (non-extant) was started by W. O. Kingsley just south of the bridge on the east bank of the river. In 1857, Mrs. A. B. Williams reported that De Pere had improved since she had left in 1850. "The population all told was about 400. Wilcox & Wager had a flouring mill. There were two saw mills, one owned by Ritchie and Reid and the other by Frank Thompson; four stores kept by Dominicus Jordan, C. R. Merrill, Mr. Kelsley and Mr. Wager, respectively."<sup>24</sup> Also in 1857, De Pere (on the east bank) was incorporated as the Village of De Pere.

The combination of transportation access and readily available water power made the rapidly growing communities on both sides of the former rapids economically viable. This combination also resulted in commercial districts being developed at both ends of the bridge and along the main roads that extended

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<sup>24</sup> Maes, Matthew J. "The History of Brown County and De Pere, Wisconsin." De Pere: *Brown County Democrat*: February 12, 1915, p. 7.

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out of these two areas and into outlying areas that were in need of the resources that De Pere was increasingly able to supply. The most important of these roads on the east bank of the river was Broadway. What made this particular north-south-running road important was the fact that it was already the principal road running north to the city of Green Bay, which is located at the mouth of the river, from points to the south on that side of the river. Thus, Broadway was already an important local and regional thoroughfare when the first bridge was built at De Pere and the place where Broadway connected with the east end of the east-west-running bridge thus became a natural place for commerce to develop. This new commercial development was not limited just to Broadway either. Commercial development also began to extend eastward from Broadway along both sides of the east-west-running George Street as well because the western terminus of George Street was the east end of the bridge. Consequently, the point of intersection of George Street with the already existing north-south-running Broadway became the focal point for commercial activity on the east bank of the river.

Similar development occurred at the west end of the bridge as well and for identical reasons. Here too, several already existing and newly created roads quickly came to focus on the area near the end of the new bridge. The most immediately important of these roads was the east-west-running Main Avenue, and what made this particular thoroughfare important was the fact that its eastern terminus was the west end of the bridge. Consequently, commercial development developed around this point as well, and along the three-block length of Main Ave.<sup>25</sup> In 1861, the Village of De Pere, on the east side of the river, and the as yet unincorporated village of West De Pere located in the Town of Lawrence on the west side of the river, joined efforts to replace the old bridge across the Fox with a new one. In the following year an event of even greater importance occurred when the tracks of the Chicago & NorthWestern Railroad reached West De Pere on their way up the west bank of the river to Fort Howard. The importance of this event cannot be overestimated: by this time railroads were rapidly eroding the importance and advantages of river and lake transportation and a position on a railroad line was becoming an imperative for a community that hoped to grow and prosper. Not surprisingly, the place where these tracks crossed Main Avenue further anchored the commercial district that was already growing up along Main Avenue.

The period from the end of the Civil War in 1865 until the financial panic of 1873 was a boom period for the communities on both sides of the river. By 1870, the census of that year showed that the population of De Pere on the east side of the river had risen to 2800 and on the west side to 875. As a consequence, the community on the west side petitioned to be incorporated as the Village of West De Pere, which was approved in that same year.

In 1871, the Village of De Pere on the east side received a railroad of its own when the tracks of the

<sup>25</sup> Two of these areas are now NRHP-listed historic districts: the South Broadway Historic District on the east side of the river, and the Main Avenue Historic District on the west side.

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Milwaukee Northern Railroad (later the Milwaukee Road) reached the community on their way up to Green Bay, and as had already happened on the west side, property owners on the east side responded with a flurry of platting activity. A Bird's Eye View of the two villages, published in 1871, shows that the settled part of the Village of De Pere on the east side of the river was then bounded by the river to the west, Fulton Street to the north, Huron Street to the east, and Chicago Street to the south, while the settled portion of West De Pere was bounded by the river on the east and north, the C. & NW RR tracks on the west, and Butler Street to the south. Both communities had public schools, there were six churches (Irish, French, and German Catholic, Methodist, Congregational, and Presbyterian), three hotels (California House, National House, and Village House), and three large industries (De Pere Iron Works, Fox River Iron Co., and First National Iron Co.).<sup>26</sup>

The "French" Catholic Church in West De Pere was a local nickname that was given to St. Joseph R.C. Church, which served a mainly French-speaking congregation composed of French-Canadian and Belgian immigrants. This church, built in 1870, was located on the south side of Grant Street and to the east of Second Street. It was Gothic Revival style design and was at first sided with vertical wooden boards but was later re-sided in brick. The 1871 Bird's Eye View of De Pere shows that at that time the area surrounding this church (which would subsequently become the site of the St. Norbert College campus) was comprised of the north-south-running Second and Third streets, which were intersected by the east-west-running Oneida (now Reid), Grant, and Butler streets, and there was then a scattering of houses located on these streets along with the church, with most of the houses being located on Oneida and Third streets.

*Municipal History*

By 1875, the two villages of De Pere and West De Pere had evolved into the principal trading center of the region and their two well-established business cores were both surrounded by residential plats. In 1876, the following description of De Pere was contained in an advertisement for land that was owned by the De Pere Co.:

The waterpower is made by the first dam on the Fox River of the Green Bay & Mississippi Canal Company. Depere [sic] and West Depere [sic] lie on opposite sides of the river, and are connected by a commodious bridge of fifteen hundred feet in length. Their population numbers over four thousand people. There are eight churches, three public and one private school; four furnaces for smelting iron ore; one extensive railroad car manufactory and iron works; one machine shop; three flour mills; two large wooden ware factories; three shingle mills; four saw mills; two sash and door factories; one stave factory; one hub and spoke factory; five wagon ships; seven smitheries; a steam

<sup>26</sup> *Bird's Eye View of De Pere, Wisconsin*. Madison: J. J. Stoner, publisher, 1871.

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forge and various other manufactories. The Milwaukee and Northern Railroad runs on the river bank through Depere, [sic] and the Chicago and Northwestern Depot is at West Depere [sic]. The Goodrich line of steamers make regular trips between Depere [sic] and Chicago, and the Buffalo line takes freight from our wharves to Buffalo and intermediate ports.<sup>27</sup>

And yet, even during this prosperous period, larger forces would have a substantial effect on the future of the two villages. By 1880, the combined populations of the nearby twin cities of Green Bay and Fort Howard (also located on the east and west sides of the Fox River) was 10,500, more than double the 3,824 of the two De Peres. This difference in relative size has continued until the present day. The reasons for this difference in size and rate of growth reflected many things, and among them was the simple fact that the initial advantages that had led to the creation and subsequent growth of De Pere had slowly dwindled. By 1880, De Pere's water power advantage was gradually being offset by the construction of new coal-fired steam boilers. Green Bay also reaped the advantage of being the final destination point of all the land and water transportation routes that passed through De Pere. In addition, Green Bay's position at the mouth of the Fox River gave it advantages as a port that could not be matched by a site further upstream. As a consequence, the rate of De Pere's population growth gradually began to level off. Nevertheless, the growth that had occurred up to this point was sufficient to ensure that the commercial cores that had been established in the two villages would survive and would continue to grow and evolve.

In 1883, the two villages were both incorporated as the city of De Pere (east side) and the city of Nicolet (west side). Nicolet subsequently changed its name back to West De Pere in 1887 and the two cities finally agreed to merge on August 7, 1889, and became known as the City of De Pere. Slightly more than a week later the original St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church on Grant Street was destroyed by fire, although the adjacent frame parsonage and the adjacent frame parish school building both survived.<sup>28</sup> The construction of a new brick-clad Gothic Revival style St. Joseph Church began shortly thereafter, using plans that may have been drawn by Joseph LeClair, a builder and perhaps also an architect, who lived in Green Bay and supervised the building's construction.<sup>29</sup> The completed church was officially dedicated in September of 1890 and it was especially noted at that time for the richness of its interior and its painted walls.<sup>30</sup> An additional distinction was conferred on the church in 1892 when it received papal permission to be named the headquarters of the Archconfraternity of St. Joseph in America and to house the National Shrine of St. Joseph.

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<sup>27</sup> Maes, Matthew J. "The History of Brown County and De Pere, Wisconsin." De Pere: *Brown County Democrat*, March 5, 1915, p. 10.

<sup>28</sup> "The Church Consumed." *The De Pere News*: August 17, 1889, p. 1.

<sup>29</sup> "The New St. Joseph's Church." *The De Pere News*: September 21, 1889, p. 1. The church as originally built had a Gothic Revival design but it was enriched in 1926 and now has a High Victorian Gothic Revival style design instead.

<sup>30</sup> Duaine, Joseph. "A Beautiful Church Edifice." Green Bay: *The Daily State Gazette*: March 27, 1893, p. 1.

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These distinctions notwithstanding, the fact remained that St. Joseph's Parish was not large or wealthy; many of the parish's families had unemployed husbands who had until recently been employed in a local factory that had burned just prior to the fire that destroyed their church. The construction of the new church therefore imposed a considerable financial burden on the parish and on the Green Bay Diocese. The solution lay in the transfer of the parish and its buildings to the Norbertine Order of the Roman Catholic Church, under the direction of Father Bernard H. Pennings.

*The Norbertines*

The Norbertines, who are more properly known as the Order of Canons Regular of Prémontré, also known as the Premonstratensians, is a religious order founded by St. Norbert in Prémontré in northeastern France in 1120.<sup>31</sup> The Order grew rapidly thereafter. By 1126 there were nine houses of the Order throughout western Europe and by the middle of the fourteenth century the Order had some 1300 monasteries for men and another 400 for women. By the end of the eighteenth century, the changes wrought by the Reformation, the French Revolution, and the dissolution of the monasteries that took place throughout much of Europe during Napoleon's rule, came close to bringing an end to the Order. By the beginning of the nineteenth century just eight houses of the Order remained, all of which were in Austria. By the start of the twentieth century, the Order had rebuilt itself and at that time there were 20 monasteries located throughout Europe with some 1000 members.

One of the principal monasteries belonging to the Order was Berne Abbey, in Holland. It was from this abbey that Father Bernard H. Pennings was sent to the United States and to Wisconsin in 1893 in answer to a request from Bishop Sebastian Messmer, head of the Green Bay Diocese, for a priest who could minister to the many Belgian immigrants who had settled in Wisconsin and particularly in the three adjoining counties of Brown, Door and Kewaunee. Bernard H. Pennings (1861-1955) was born in Gemert, the Netherlands in 1861 and he entered the Order in 1879 and professed in 1884. In 1889, Pennings was made a professor of theology and philosophy and master of novices at the abbey. In 1893 he left the abbey for the United States as founding-superior to the American mission of the Order along with two fellow members of the Order. The three men arrived in Hoboken, New Jersey, entrained for Green Bay and their first mission, which was located in the small Door County community of Delwich (now Namur), and there they began their ministry.<sup>32</sup> In 1898, after discussions with Bishop Messmer regarding the fate of what was then the vacant St. Joseph's parish in De Pere, an

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<sup>31</sup> A variant spelling of Premonstratensians is Praemonstratensians, this being the original spelling.

<sup>32</sup> Other members of Order had come to the United States and to Wisconsin much earlier, including Father Adalbert Inama, who first came to Wisconsin in 1845 and established a mission church in Roxbury, in Dane County, that subsequently became the still active St. Norbert Parish. Father Pennings, however, established the first monastery of the Order in this country and in the Western Hemisphere.



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agreement was reached whereby Pennings and his fellow members agreed to move to De Pere and take over the spiritual guidance of the members of the parish and they also thus became the owners of the existing parish buildings and some adjacent land that belonged to the diocese. St. Joseph Church and its associated National Shrine of St. Joseph thus became the first Norbertine foundation in the United States and the Order's first monastery in this country.

Besides assuming the duties associated with being a parish priest, Pennings was also a teacher. Before arriving in De Pere he had sent letters back to the Abbot of the abbey in Berne expressing his desire to establish a boarding school for boys in this country. Once established in De Pere, Pennings began teaching catechism in the St. Joseph parish grade school and on October 10, 1898, he also began teaching a Latin class to four local boys aged 12-15 in the kitchen of the parish school. This class marked the beginning of what would soon become St. Norbert College. During this same period Pennings was also receiving new members of the Order from the abbey in the Netherlands. As the head of the Order's American mission and its Prior, it was his task to assign men to the new missions and parishes that were committing to the Norbertines in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan. As these men arrived in De Pere they were first housed in a small, Second Empire style, two-story brick house located just to the east of the church that had been given to the Order for this purpose.<sup>33</sup> Almost immediately, more space was needed and in 1899 a two-and-one-half-story, brick-clad Second Empire Style wing was attached to the Order's existing house and the expanded building that resulted (non-extant) was then renamed St. Norbert Priory (aka St. Norbert Convent). It housed both the Norbertine fathers themselves, the first classrooms of what would become the new St. Norbert College, and also living quarters for boarding students attending the College.

At this point in time, the principal purpose of the College was (and had been from the beginning) to train young men for the priesthood, but this goal still seemed to be a long way off when teaching began in 1898. In 1899, though, the number of students enrolled jumped from four to twelve and although just a single room in the priory was then set aside for their education, Father Pennings was already making plans to turn this small beginning into something more substantial.

The first formal announcement to the public appeared in 1900. It was entitled, "Prospectus of St. Norbert's College, conducted by the Praemonstratensian Fathers, West De Pere, Wis., established in 1899." This four page brochure acknowledges the formal organization of the educational

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<sup>33</sup> A small frame house (non-extant) that was located just to the west of St. Joseph Church was the actual parsonage of the church itself at this time.

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endeavor undertaken October 10, 1898. ... The purpose of the College was "to give young Catholic students, who wish to become priests, a thorough religious and classical education."<sup>34</sup>

*College Development*

To an outsider, beginning such a project at this time in De Pere's history might have seemed ill-timed. By 1900, De Pere's overall population had dropped slightly to 4,038, and the city was entering a more mature phase of its history. Changes in the lumber industry that had previously been of such importance to De Pere were dictating that certain kinds of manufacturing that had once been done in factories like those in De Pere could now be done more efficiently in plants located nearer to the forests themselves, forests that had largely been depleted in Brown County. In addition, other types of manufacturing that had once been done in the city were now being done by much larger firms with regional and even national markets. As a result, industrial production was slowly beginning to lose its importance in the economic life of the city. Fortunately, the Catholic population in this part of Wisconsin was a large one at that time and the desire to have a seminary located in this area was shared by many church members in De Pere and Green Bay and by the leaders of the Green Bay Diocese.<sup>35</sup>

Local resources were again tapped as the shared quarters of students and Norbertines burst at the seams. On May 9, 1901, a meeting was held attended by Prior Pennings and the Bishop of Green Bay, Most Reverend Sebastian Messmer, and his Vicar general, Monsignor Joseph Fox. Local pastors made up the necessary quorum which would begin the transformation of the College.

Indeed the idea of a seminary was a good one, much needed, but what of the young men who had little opportunity for education and needed skills that would fit them for life in the shops, industries and businesses? Most of all the idea of a Catholic College in the diocese was applauded sufficiently that the local church officials and pastors of the Diocese pledged generous support.

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<sup>34</sup> *Legacy of Learning: 100 Years of St. Norbert College, 1898-1998*. De Pere, WI: St. Norbert College, 1998, pp. 22-23. The College therefore became the first college to be established in the United States by the Norbertine Order. This is still true today and it is also the only Norbertine College in the world.

<sup>35</sup> Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.) *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Madison: Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1989, Vol. 3, (Religion) p. 3-22. The 1926 U.S. Census showed that the Catholic population of the five adjoining counties of Brown, Calumet, Door, Kewaunee, and Outagamie, comprised from 50-75 percent of the total population of all church members in each of these counties.

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In a month the *Annals* would report that "It was decided to build a new structure on a beautiful knoll on the banks of the Fox. The building would be of brick, three stories high with a basement." ... Attention was also paid to the pleas of the pastors, and the same *Annals* notes that the curriculum would be expanded to include a commercial course, "thus extending the usefulness of the new institution." The cornerstone of the perennial campus anchor, Main Hall, was laid by Bishop Messmer on March 19, 1902.<sup>36</sup>

This new multi-purpose building, Main Hall, thus became the first building belonging to the College that was constructed solely for college purposes, and it was completed in 1903 and it still serves as the administrative center of the College today.

From the start it was intended that the College would be a boarding school for young men and it would admit both commercial and classical students; in other words, those seeking a career outside the church and those seeking one within it. The classical curriculum was oriented towards those men seeking a religious vocation and it followed precedents laid down in the European abbeys of the Order and included Latin, Greek, ethics and philosophy, music, literature, drama and art, as well as the necessary theological instruction. English, math, and elocution were also taught and when the College moved into its new building in 1903 a two-year business course was added to the curriculum, where bookkeeping, typing, and economics were taught. Most of the College's first teachers were members of the Norbertine Order, but the College also sought out and hired lay teachers to teach its business-related courses.

As is mentioned in greater detail elsewhere in this nomination, the new College building was located in what in 1903 was a residential neighborhood and the College and the adjacent priory and parish buildings were completely surrounded by this neighborhood at that time. Nevertheless, even then, Pennings, the Norbertine Order, and also the Green Bay Diocese were all thinking of the future of the College and realized that if the student body was to grow in numbers, the college would need additional buildings and land on which to build them. As a result, from the onset the College initiated a process of acquiring additional land adjacent to their current holdings as funds permitted, a process that is still ongoing today. The first new building on the campus after Main Hall was a gymnasium that was opened in an adjacent converted former boat factory in 1905 and this was recognition by the College that athletics played an important part in promoting a healthy learning environment on the campus. When this first gym building burned down in 1909, a new one was built and when that one burned down two years later, the College then built a more permanent one on the same site that would serve the campus until 1930.

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<sup>36</sup> *Legacy of Learning: 100 Years of St. Norbert College, 1898-1998*. De Pere, WI: St. Norbert College, 1998, pp. 25-26. The *Annals* cited here are *The St. Joseph Annals*, this being a regularly published newsletter that was concerned with the doings of St. Joseph Parish and the National Shrine of St. Joseph and it was edited for many years by Father Pennings.

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Constructing buildings was only one step in developing the College. Because the long term success of the College depended on its ability to also attract students who were not destined for the priesthood, Father Pennings and the other members of the Order who ran the College made sure that teaching in the College was on the same level or higher than other comparable colleges in Wisconsin. By 1911, the College's commercial curriculum had already achieved a high standard and had resulted in the College's becoming an affiliate of the National Business College's Federation and being accepted as a member of the Wisconsin Association of Commercial Schools. Pennings also realized that if the College was to thrive it would need Norbertine teachers with advanced degrees in their specialties. As a result, members of the Order were routinely sent to universities throughout the country to continue their education and acquire advanced degrees to ensure that when they returned to teach at the College they would have the necessary knowledge and credentials.

By 1914, the College's success at attracting new students made the building of additional facilities for classrooms and living units a necessity. Fortunately, at this important juncture in the College's history, the first of many private donors stepped forward to make a new building possible. This was Henry Boyle, a successful businessman living in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, who, in 1912, was seeking a college where his son, Francis H. Boyle, could receive an education. By 1915, Boyle's pleasure at the education his son had received at the College persuaded him to donate \$140,000.00 to the College for the construction of a new multi-purpose building, Francis Boyle Hall, and also a separate heating plant building. The heating plant serviced Francis H. Boyle Hall, Main Hall, St. Joseph Church, St. Norbert Priory, and the new St. Joseph's Parish school building.

Boyle's gift was important to the College and to the city of De Pere:

The proposed improvement is evidence of the success of the college and De Pere is to be congratulated upon being the home of an institution whose influence cannot help but have a wholesome effect upon the material and moral and educational advancement of our city. That St. Norbert's college may continue to grow and flourish is our earnest wish, and the Democrat bespeaks for the institution all the support and encouragement De Pere and its citizens can give it.<sup>37</sup>

Not long thereafter, as construction was about to start, the local De Pere newspaper wrote another article describing the new building, this time in detail, and praising those who were responsible for it:

This will be one of the best buildings of the type in this part of the state and no college or university in the country can boast of having a more substantial, complete and up-to-date

<sup>37</sup> "\$60,000 College Building." De Pere: *Brown County Democrat*, June 25, 1915., p. 1.

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structure. De Pere can well feel proud of the new edifice and of the men who are bringing this city to be known throughout the state as one of Wisconsin's college towns.<sup>38</sup>

That a close, positive relationship existed between the city and the College even at this early date is not surprising. While St. Norbert College was, and is, a Catholic institution, it was also the only institution of higher learning in the greater Green Bay area until the 1950s, when the University of Wisconsin's Extension Division created a two-year campus in Green Bay that in 1968 evolved into the present UW-Green Bay University campus.<sup>39</sup> Consequently, Catholic parents in this part of the state who wanted their children to receive a college degree from a religiously affiliated institution could now send them to St. Norbert. Even those De Pere and Green Bay area citizens who were not Catholic realized that having the College in their midst was a positive development from a civic point of view.

With Boyle Hall in place, the College now had enough classrooms for its students and enough space to house them. In the meantime, the Norbertine Order's own numbers in De Pere were growing and the Order was itself in need of enlarged accommodations. Ever since its founding in De Pere in 1898, the Order had been receiving new members from the mother house in Berne. In addition, new seminarians were graduating from the College and being ordained. These Norbertine fathers were then either assigned to missions located in Wisconsin and elsewhere in the country or else they stayed in De Pere and became associated with the College as teachers and administrators. Heading this effort was Father Pennings, the Prior of the Order in this country, who was also the president of St. Norbert College and the parish priest of St. Joseph's Parish. In all of these roles he was successful. In 1925, in recognition of his services to the Order, Father Pennings was appointed the first Norbertine Abbot in North America and St. Norbert Priory therefore became St. Norbert Abbey, the first abbey of the Order in North America.<sup>40</sup>

The installation ceremony attending Father Pennings' elevation as the first Abbot of the Norbertine Order in North America was an important event in De Pere's history and it brought forth fulsome praise for the new Abbot from newspapers in the area. It was reported:

The elevation of Rt. Rev. B. H. Pennings as first abbot of the Premonstratensian order marks an epoch in the history of the Catholic Church of America. The priory of St. Norbert was canonically established here in September, 1898, and under the wise and far-seeing leadership of Father Pennings grew steadily in number as well as influence, so that the request of the general

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<sup>38</sup> "New Building to Cost \$100,000." De Pere: *Brown County Democrat*, February 4, 1916, p. 1.

<sup>39</sup> The only other institutions of higher learning that existed in the northeast part of the state when St. Norbert College was founded were UW-Oshkosh, which was founded in Oshkosh in 1871 as a teacher-training school, and Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, which was founded in 1849 and which was originally associated with the Methodist Church.

<sup>40</sup> "St. Norbert's Priory Raised to Abbey." De Pere: *Brown County Democrat*, April 23, 1925, Part Two, pp. 1, 16. This article contains a very good history of Pennings and the Order up to that time.

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superior of the order and of the ordinary of the diocese to raise the priory to the rank of an abbey was readily and cheerfully granted. At the same time Father Pennings was elevated to the dignity of abbot in recognition of his valuable services rendered to church and country. Father Pennings has indeed been a father to his flock and has made history for the community, the diocese, and the state.

The city of De Pere has been the beneficiary of the growth of the order here, from a religious as well as from an educational and commercial standpoint. St. Norbert's college, a living monument to the enterprise of Father Pennings and his associates, is a real asset, not only to De Pere, but of the northeastern part of the state, and constitutes a powerful force for good. The atmosphere pervading the college and radiating from the institution makes for morality, character, and good citizenship, and will increase as its prestige expands.<sup>41</sup>

Not surprisingly, this new distinction served to further increase the number of newly ordained members entering the Order. Consequently, in 1926, the Order demolished the original parish rectory building and its 1899 wing that had been the first home of the Order in De Pere. In its place they built a large, new three-story wing that was attached to the remaining three-story wing that had been constructed in 1910 to provide increased living space for the members

With still more students arriving for the 1929 school year, the now much too small 1911 gymnasium building was demolished and in its place the College built a new gymnasium on the shore of the Fox River. It was first known simply as "The Gym"; however, in 1945 it was renamed I. F. Van Dyke Hall after the College's first student, who afterward became a member of the Norbertine Order and a faculty member of the College.

No other new buildings were constructed for the College in the 1930s, but many other changes occurred during this period. Up until 1930, St. Norbert had three distinct departments: a business program, a liberal arts program, and an associated Catholic high school, which was conducted out of the parish school building that, had been built across from St. Joseph Church in 1917.

Most of the St. Norbert College B.A. graduates up to 1930 profited by a foundation gained in its own high school department. This meant a four-year preparation in Latin, two or three years of at least one modern language, two years of Greek, plus the usual required courses in mathematics, science, history, English and related courses. Add four years of courses in religion.<sup>42</sup>

<sup>41</sup> "A Recognition Fully Deserved, Worthily Bestowed." De Pere: *Journal-Democrat*, May 28, 1926, p. 2.

<sup>42</sup> *Legacy of Learning: 100 Years of St. Norbert College, 1898-1998*. De Pere, WI: St. Norbert College, 1998, p. 95.

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In 1930, the decision was made to separate the high school from the College and to place it under a separate administration. Another decision was to add a four-year course leading to a Bachelor of Science degree to the already existing four-year course that led to a Bachelor of Arts degree. By this time, the College had already ceased to be an institution that served only the Catholic population of the northeast region of the state. Despite the fact that the governing Board of Administration of the College was composed entirely of members of the Norbertine Order and members of the Order made up most of the teaching staff, the College was now attracting students of all faiths and was happy to do so. As Father Anselm Keefe, the academic dean of the College wrote in the 1930 College Bulletin:

While the direction of the College and the supervision of the students is Roman Catholic in origin and character, the students of other faiths in increasing numbers are finding at St. Norbert College an opportunity for educational advancement which does no violence to their convictions. For them and their fellow Catholic students, the contacts of school life are an invaluable lesson in that mutual respect for the sacredness of another's honest belief which is the ground and bed-rock of American life.<sup>43</sup>

In 1934, the College initiated its first summer session, which was aimed at area teachers seeking credits in the field of education or seeking to complete bachelor degree requirements. This program soon attracted both Sisters teaching in Green Bay Diocese schools and teachers in public schools; summer courses are still offered today. Another important academic milestone for the College was achieved in becoming fully accredited by the National Catholic Educational Association in 1931 and in April of 1937, full accreditation was granted by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Students from St. Norbert had long had their credit transfers accepted by the University of Wisconsin in Madison and by Marquette University in Milwaukee once they had fulfilled their junior college requirements, but full national accreditation finally put St. Norbert College on par with its peers nationwide.

Enrollment continued to climb during the 1930s as well, from 159 in 1930 to 343 in the earliest years of the 1940s, and while many of these students elected to live at home during the Depression years and commute to the College, the College was never-the-less approaching another housing crisis at the start of this decade. As a result, in 1941 the College embarked on the construction of its first building designed solely as a residence hall. To finance the \$300,000 cost of the building a subscription drive was undertaken and by October of 1942 the new building, which could accommodate 150 students, was ready for occupancy.<sup>44</sup> Ironically, the new building, which was first called Residence Hall and later Berne Hall, and still later, Dennis Burke Hall, opened with a greatly reduced campus enrollment since many of the campus students had been drafted or had enlisted in the armed forces. This was

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<sup>43</sup> *Legacy of Learning: 100 Years of St. Norbert College, 1898-1998*. De Pere, WI: St. Norbert College, 1998, p. 79.

<sup>44</sup> "College Dedicates New Residence Hall." *De Pere Journal-Democrat*, October 8, 1942, pp. 1, 4.

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more than made up for, however, by various U.S. Army programs that made use of the building throughout World War II. Once the war ended, enrollment skyrocketed and by September of 1947, 841 students, 500 of which were WW II veterans, had enrolled at the College, occupying every possible facility. Enrollment dropped into the 500s during the Korean War, but rose steadily thereafter, reaching 693 by 1955.

Part of the growth the College experienced after World War II was the result of another milestone decision on the part of the College administrators. In 1952 women were admitted as students to the College's regular session for the first time. Initially, only commuting women students were accepted because of the lack of residence halls for women, but this would change in the following decade. Men's enrollment also continued to grow throughout this period and by 1956 the need for another men's residence hall was apparent. The result was a new building housing 180 students that was largely paid for by donations from Neenah, Wisconsin industrialist Frank J. Sensenbrenner, after whom the building is named, and it was another large donation from Sensenbrenner that helped to make possible the College's new Albert Pennings Hall of Fine Arts, which was built the same year and which contained a 900-seat auditorium complete with a full theatrical stage, classrooms for music and theatre, and offices for associated faculty.<sup>45</sup>

During this same period the Norbertine Order was also experiencing growth and in 1959, those members of the Order who were not teachers at the College moved from the old abbey grounds at the College into a magnificent new abbey that was completed in that year on 40 acres of land situated on the east side of De Pere.<sup>46</sup> As a result, the original St. Norbert Abbey, located adjacent to the College was renamed St. Joseph Priory and in 1963, when more modern quarters were needed by members of the Order who were teaching at the College, the old 1910 wing of the Priory was demolished and a new, much larger modern wing was constructed and was attached to the remaining 1926 portion of the Priory.

The year 1963 was also an eventful one on the College campus. In that year, a third men's residence hall was built, Victor McCormick Hall, named for a prominent Green Bay attorney and donor to the College. Of greater importance though, was the construction of the College's first residence halls for women, the twin Lorraine and Madelaine Halls, which were built in 1963 on Reid Street, and which were joined in 1965 by Mary Minahan McCormick Hall and in 1966 by Gertrude S. Bergstrom Hall, both of these also located on Reid Street. Once these new women's residence halls were opened the number of women students on the campus increased dramatically. Total student population reached 1,700 by 1968. Yet another residence hall was built on campus in 1967, this being Dorm IV, which in

<sup>45</sup> Norbertines Will Dedicate New Buildings." *De Pere Journal-Democrat*, May 31, 1956, pp. 1, 8-11.

<sup>46</sup> The Order's new abbey is still the principal house of the Order in the United States today.



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1978 was converted into the much needed Todd Wehr Library. Also built in 1967, was the Dr. John R. Minahan Science Hall, which was replaced by the new Gehl-Mulva Science Center in 2015.

Other changes of lasting significance to the College also occurred during this period. By the late 1960s, the number of women students attending the College was almost equal to that of men and the total number of students was now so large that the number of members of the Order in teaching positions in the College was no longer sufficient to meet College needs. As a result, more and more lay faculty members were hired. Today, Norbertine teachers constitute only a small minority of the College's teaching staff. A similar trend also affected the administration of the College. Up until the 1960s all of the administrative positions in the College had been held by members of the Order and the College's Board of Administration was also made up almost entirely of members of the Order and of the Diocese. By the 1960s, however, running an institution the size of St. Norbert was making heavy demands on the members of the Order, which at that time owned the College as well as administered it. In June of 1966, therefore, the Council of St. Norbert Abbey voted to establish a Board of Trustees for St. Norbert College. "St. Norbert thus became the first Catholic college [in the United States] to be governed by a predominantly lay Board of Trustees."<sup>47</sup> When a new president was finally chosen in 1969 to replace the outgoing Father Dennis Burke, he became the first lay president in the College's history; all subsequent presidents of the College have been laymen chosen from outside the Norbertine Order.

All told, ten major buildings were added to the campus in the 1960s. The next decade, however, saw the College putting a greater emphasis on academic issues and only two buildings were built in this decade: the Schuldes Sports Center and the Todd Wehr Library, the latter was accomplished by remodeling the Dorm IV building that had been built in 1967. In addition, a three-block-long section of Second Street that divided the campus into east and west portions was vacated because the College now owned all the properties on both sides of the street. A donation from board member Lee J. Roemer resulted in this three-block section being remodeled into a pedestrian mall that was subsequently named for Roemer. Following the mall's construction, the now contiguous campus was re-landscaped and an enlarged network of pedestrian paths were put in place to connect the various campus buildings.

In 1981, another change of lasting significance took place when the College was separated legally from the Norbertine Order and the newly created, independent St. Norbert College, Inc. and its Board of Trustees became the new owners of the campus. The Order still plays an important role in the College: its members must constitute 20% of the board's members; members of the Order teach in the

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<sup>47</sup> *Legacy of Learning: 100 Years of St. Norbert College, 1898-1998*. De Pere, WI: St. Norbert College, 1998, p. 128. The Abbot and his Council, however, still retained the right to approve the selection of members of the Board of Trustees as well as the College President.

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College; they staff what is now called St. Norbert College Parish; and, until 2016, retired members of the Order were housed in St. Joseph Priory.

Since 1981, the College has gone from strength to strength. Student enrollment has now climbed to 2,200 and the College is consistently ranked as one of the top 10 Catholic liberal arts colleges in the United States by U.S. News & World Report. Today's campus contains forty buildings and the College now owns all of the land from the Claude Allouez Bridge to the north to Stewart Street to the south, all the lands on both sides of Third Street to the west, and to the Fox River to the east, and it owns other lands nearby as well. In addition, the College has raised more than \$100,000,000 from its alumni and other donors in just the last 10 years, which has enabled it to build a number of new buildings on its campus, to remodel and expand others, and to purchase several already existing nearby buildings for reuse for College purposes.<sup>48</sup>

The city of De Pere is, and has always been, justly proud of having St. Norbert College within its boundaries because of the excellent educational opportunities the College provides to city and area families and also because the arts-related and athletic events that it hosts play a large role in the social life of the city. The College's 506 employees make it the Green Bay area's 27<sup>th</sup> largest employer and these employees, along with the College's 2,200-member student body, play an important role in the economic life of De Pere. The Norbertine Order, meanwhile, has also now expanded beyond its original abbey adjacent to the St. Norbert College campus and its existing abbey in east De Pere. Besides serving in numerous parishes in the Green Bay area, members of this abbey, which is the mother house of the Order in the United States, also now oversee dependent priories and daughter abbeys in Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Mexico, and Mississippi, and even a mission in Peru. Those members of the Order who are associated with St. Norbert Abbey in De Pere are just some of the 1,300 members of the Norbertine Order worldwide, many of whom are teachers in the 24 countries around the world that the Order also serves. St. Norbert College in De Pere continues to be the only college in the world that was founded and operated by the Order, just as it was when Father Pennings taught his first group of students in 1898. The College he created in De Pere is a source of great pride to the Roman Catholic Church in Wisconsin and in the United States.

### **Architecture**

The St. Norbert College Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture as an intact collection of architecturally prominent college buildings. Constructed between 1890 and 1963, these buildings

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<sup>48</sup> These buildings include the former St. Boniface R.C. Church and its rectory, convent, and school buildings, and also the former Nicolet High School Building, which is now the Pennings Activity Center and which is individually listed in the NRHP (10/5/2015).

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constitute the historic core of the campus of St. Norbert College. These buildings comprise a readily identifiable entity today despite being surrounded on three sides by the greatly expanded campus of the College.<sup>49</sup> Individually, these buildings are very fine, highly intact, brick-clad examples of the High Victorian Gothic Revival, Richardsonian Romanesque Revival, Tudor Revival, Neo-Classical Revival, and Contemporary styles that are each the finest examples of these particular styles in De Pere. In addition, four of the five earliest buildings in the district were designed by prominent Green Bay architect William E. Reynolds, while the three newest were designed by Berners, Schober and Kilp, another prominent Green Bay architectural firm. Collectively, these buildings are of architectural significance because they represent almost the entire built history of the College as it existed up until 1956, when Frank J. Sensenbrenner Hall was built, and they therefore reflect the evolution in architectural styles that took place during this same period and the evolution of the differing resource types that the college required as it grew.

When St. Norbert College was founded in 1898, the College consisted of a single room in a former parish school building that was part of a complex that also included the parish church and an adjacent parish rectory building, and these three buildings were located in the midst of a large residential neighborhood that was bounded by the Fox River on the north and east, by the north-south-running Third Street on the west, and by the east-west-running Stewart Street on the south. Indeed, a plat map of De Pere published in 1889 shows that even by that date, all of the land within these boundaries had already been platted and had been subdivided into 13 city blocks that were bounded by the irregular west bank of the Fox River to the east and north, by the north-south-running Third and Second streets, and by the east-west-running Oneida (now Reid), Grant, Butler, Millar, Marsh, and Stewart streets, and the same map also shows that by that time most of the lots in these plats has been built upon and were occupied by single family residences.<sup>50</sup>

Today, all of the land contained within these boundaries is owned by St. Norbert College and it constitutes most of the College's campus. In order to achieve this, the College embarked on an almost continuous process of acquiring additional lands on which to build the new buildings its ever expanding student body required, a process that took decades of effort to accomplish. New land was acquired by the College as funds permitted and once it had been purchased, any existing buildings that were located on it were then either demolished, sold and moved off site, or else they were sometimes reused by the College for various College purposes such as housing or office space until such time as they were no longer needed. Eventually, all of the buildings that once occupied the lots in this

<sup>49</sup> The Period of Significance for Architecture spans the years between 1890, when the oldest contributing building in the district was built, and 1963, when the newest one was constructed.

<sup>50</sup> *Plat Book of Brown County, Wisconsin*. Minneapolis: C. M. Foote & Co., 1889. Reading from north to south, these plats were: the Original Plat of West De Pere; Dousman's Addition; Lessey's Addition; Millar's Addition; and Armstrong's Addition.

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neighborhood were either moved elsewhere or demolished, Second Street and those portions of Butler, Millar, and Marsh streets lying to the east of Third Street were all vacated, and the College buildings that we see today took their place.

The oldest building in the district is St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, a fine brick and stone-clad High Victorian Gothic style building that was begun in 1889 by De Pere builder Joseph LeClair and completed in the following year as a replacement for the original frame Gothic Revival style church on the same site that had been built in 1870, but which was destroyed by a fire earlier in 1889.<sup>51</sup> The High Victorian Gothic Style St. Joseph Church we see today, though, achieved much of its present appearance in 1926, when the original 1890 Gothic Revival Style church's brick-clad exterior was enriched by the addition of new decorative stone trim that was part of a church remodeling project that was designed by Green Bay architect William E. Reynolds. The more elaborate church that resulted still serves as St. Norbert College's campus church today and despite the 1926 alterations it is still the most intact of De Pere's three surviving historic Gothic Revival churches and the only one that is still used for religious purposes.<sup>52</sup>

The main façade of St. Joseph Church faces north onto Grant Street and it was originally a parish church serving a French-speaking congregation that was predominately of French-Canadian and Belgian origin. During this period, the church was flanked to the east by a small, Second Empire style brick-clad parish rectory (demolished) that faced north onto Grant Street, while to the south of the church was a Front Gable Vernacular form, two-story, brick-clad parish school built in 1888 (demolished), that faced south onto Butler Street. All three of these buildings were situated on land that constituted the east half of a block that was bounded by the Fox River to the east, Grant Street to the north, Second Street to the west, and Butler Street to the south, and this block was surrounded by other blocks that were part of what was then still a predominately residential neighborhood.

In 1898, the church, its associated buildings, and adjacent vacant land to the east that belonged to the Green Bay Diocese, were transferred to the Norbertine Order of the Roman Catholic Church. One year later, a new, no longer extant Second Empire Style, two-and-one-half-story-tall, brick-clad wing was attached to the already existing former Second Empire Style brick-clad parish rectory building that now housed the Norbertine fathers. The expanded building was renamed St. Norbert Priory (aka St. Norbert Convent) and it housed the Norbertine fathers themselves, the classrooms of the new St. Norbert College, which had been established by the Order in 1898, and also the living quarters for boarding students attending the College. This new building housed the College until 1903, when Main Hall, the first campus building constructed solely for college purposes, was completed.

<sup>51</sup> "The New St. Joseph's Church." *De Pere News*. September 21, 1889, p. 1

<sup>52</sup> Ironically, the other two historic Gothic Revival churches in De Pere, the former St. Boniface R.C. Church (1883) located at 402 Grant St. and the former First Baptist Church (1874) located at 309 Grant St., are also now both owned by St. Norbert College and they have been converted to other usages.

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St. Norbert's new Main Hall was a superb, still highly intact Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style 3½-story-tall building that was designed by William E. Reynolds and it was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places, October 28, 1988. This building is located south and west of St. Joseph Church and it sits in the middle of what was originally Butler Street. This site was made possible by the fact that between 1898 and 1901 the College managed to purchase all of the lots on both sides of Butler Street between Second Street and the Fox River that it did not already own. As a result, the College was able to have this portion of Butler Street vacated, thereby creating a proper setting for its new Main Hall building. As was typical of many of the earliest buildings constructed on Wisconsin's other early college and university campuses, Main Hall was built as a multi-purpose building that initially contained virtually all of the functions of the College. The basement contained a kitchen and dining area, a recreation room and a reading room. The first story contained classrooms, a study hall and a library, the second story contained a dormitory area and six private rooms, and the third story contained student lockers and an auditorium. In the following decades, Main Hall underwent a number of internal alterations as its original functions were transferred to newer campus buildings. Today, the building houses the administrative offices of the College. Even so, the exterior of the building is essentially unaltered and it is a fine, though quite late example of the Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style, a style that does not appear to have been especially popular in Brown County communities. Only one other Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style building was ever built in De Pere, the Congregational Church at 819 Reid Street (demolished). Even in the much larger neighboring city of Green Bay, examples of this style were very rare.<sup>53</sup> Today, Main Hall is the only surviving example of this style in either city. Fortunately, it is an excellent one.

Once Main Hall was completed, the building complex owned by the Norbertine Order in West De Pere consisted of buildings associated solely with the College (Main Hall), with the Order (the Priory), and with St. Joseph's Parish (the school), with St. Joseph Church serving all three. As the college enrollment grew, however, some of the existing buildings located on the College's newly acquired lots were put into service for College purposes. One of these was the former boat building workshop owned by Dan Kidney that was located on the south side of Butler St. In 1905, the College moved this frame building further east and turned it into a gymnasium, and when this building burned in 1909 it was replaced by a new one located on land the College owned on Millar Street. When this second gymnasium burned in 1911, it too was replaced, this time by a new Astylistic Utilitarian Style brick and concrete building that served the College until 1930 (now demolished).<sup>54</sup> Still other newly acquired houses served the College in various

<sup>53</sup> Ironically again, the Congregational Church was later purchased by St. Norbert College and served for some years as the music building for Abbot Pennings High School (the former Nicolet High School, now listed in the NRHP and part of the St. Norbert Campus) before it was demolished to make way for new campus buildings.

<sup>54</sup> *Legacy of Learning: 100 Years of St. Norbert College, 1898-1998*. De Pere, WI: St. Norbert College, 1998, p. 47 (illustrated).

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capacities until they were no longer needed.

The next additions to the College campus were built in 1917, when the fine Neo-Classical Revival style 3½-story Francis Boyle Hall and the Neo-Classical Style-inspired heating plant building were constructed to the west and the south of St. Joseph Church, respectively, and to the north and east of Main Hall. Both of these new buildings were also designed by William E. Reynolds and they are ample evidence that Reynolds was not only well aware of the changes in architectural styles that had occurred since his first campus building was built, but was also completely comfortable designing buildings in the newer styles. Francis H. Boyle Hall was constructed on four lots the Order had purchased in 1913 on the south side of Grant Street. These lots were located immediately to the west of St. Joseph Church and an article in the local newspaper commenting on the new building gives a good account of the process the College went through as this and future campus buildings were constructed:

The plans call for a building 67x180 feet, three stories above the grade line. It will be a brick building of fireproof construction throughout. It will be modern in every detail. The building will be erected on the corner of Grant and Second streets, facing Grant.

The small dwelling houses on Grant street in the St. Norbert's college block, are to be moved immediately from their present location to make way for the new college building. The Ritchie house is at present being moved back upon the grounds, and will be used temporarily by the college until the new building is completed. Another is being moved near the gymnasium on Millar street, to be used as an infirmary. F. Cuene is doing the moving. Two others will be sold at auction next Monday morning, and the purchaser will be required to move them as soon as possible.

The brick house on the northeast corner of Grant and Second streets formerly owned by Thos. Jackson, Sr., is being remodeled by contractor Albert Beauregard to be occupied by the Sisters of St. Joseph. The Norbertine fathers have bought the Clare Zimdars house on Grant Street, and it is now occupied by Albert Zeiten and family, the janitor of the college. As soon as the remaining houses are moved work on the new building will be started in order that the foundation may be completed before winter sets in.<sup>55</sup>

While considerably larger than Main Hall, the new Francis H. Boyle Hall was designed to fulfill multiple campus needs. The first, or basement, level story had a reading room, a library, an office, a large recreation room, cloak rooms, and other rooms. The second story had eight classrooms and two dormitory rooms, the third story had a two-story-tall study room and two large dormitory rooms, and the fourth story

<sup>55</sup> "Start Work on New College." De Pere: *Brown County Democrat*, September 24, 1915, p. 1. The building also has a full raised basement story as well that is placed above grade.

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was completely given over to sleeping quarters, save for the space allotted to the second story of the third story's study room. The completed Neo-Classical style building is an excellent example of what by 1917 was a favorite architectural style for large public buildings in Wisconsin and it was accompanied by a more utilitarian building designed in the same style by Reynolds, the campus heating plant, a separate building that is located nearby and just to the south of St. Joseph Church.

In addition to Boyle Hall and its associated heating plant, another Neo-Classical style building was built by the Green Bay Diocese directly across Grant Street from Boyle Hall in 1917. This was a new elementary school building for St. Joseph Parish, which was built as a replacement for the parish's old 1888 school, which was demolished so that its site could be reused as the site of the new campus heating plant building. The new school was rectilinear in plan and three stories tall, it was clad in brick trimmed with stone, and it too was also designed by William E. Reynolds. The new school served the parish as both an elementary school and later as a high school until a new parish school was erected elsewhere in De Pere in 1961. The 1917 parish school was purchased by St. Norbert College, which renamed it St. Joseph Hall, and the building was remodeled for the College's art department. It was demolished in 2013 to make way for the College's new Gehl-Mulva Science Center.

No new buildings would be built for the College until 1930, but in the meantime, the Norbertine Order's own numbers were growing and the Order was in need of enlarged accommodations. In addition, Father Bernard Pennings, the founder of the Norbertine Order in De Pere and the Prior of the Order, was appointed the first Norbertine Abbot in either North or South America in 1925, in recognition of his services to the Order, which meant that the existing St. Norbert Priory then became St. Norbert Abbey. This new distinction served to increase the number of new novitiates. As a result, the Order demolished the original parish rectory building and its 1899 wing in 1926 and in its place a new three-story Neo-Classical Revival style brick-clad wing was built that was attached to the existing 1910, three-story wing. This new wing was designed by William E. Reynolds, who was also remodeling St. Joseph Church in that same year, and the building that resulted served as the living quarters and social center of the Order until a new Abbey was built in east De Pere in 1959. The 1910/1926 Abbey building was then renamed St. Norbert Priory once again and it continued to be used as living quarters by the Order. In 1963, however, the Priory's 1910 wing was demolished and a new, much larger three-story Contemporary style wing designed by the Green Bay firm of Berners, Schober, and Kilp replaced it.

Enrollment at the College continued to increase throughout the 1920s and by 1929 had reached record numbers, which put pressure on all campus facilities especially the College's existing gymnasium. As a result, late in 1929 the College announced that it was going to begin construction of a new, much larger gymnasium building on the campus designed by William E. Reynolds of Green Bay.

The White Fathers are now owners of two blocks of real estate between Grant Street on the North,

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Second Street on the West, Miller [sic] Street on the South and Fox River on the East. The new gymnasium will be erected on the Southeast corner, on the bank of the Fox, but will be set far enough back from the river to permit of the future installation of a swimming pool and boat houses in connection with the present building. The Northeast corner of the site is occupied by the abbey, the Northwest corner by Boyle Hall, the Southeast corner will be occupied by the new gymnasium and plans are being made for the erection of a residence hall on the Southwest corner in the near future, while the original building, now main hall, occupies a place in the center.<sup>56</sup>

The new Tudor Revival style brick-clad gymnasium building was completed on its river bank site in December of 1930 and at first it was just called "The Gym." In 1945, however, it was renamed I. F. Van Dyke Hall after the College's first student, who afterward became a member of the Norbertine Order and a faculty member of the College. Still later, in 2000, the building was renamed the Ray Van Den Heuvel Family Campus Center to honor the major donor who made a large, harmonious, Contemporary Style addition to the building that was completed in that year possible.

The College was fortunate to finish its new gym at the very beginning of the Great Depression; no new buildings were built on the campus until the start of World War II, by which time the College's ever increasing student population was living not just in the College's existing buildings, but also in College-owned houses and in rented houses scattered throughout the surrounding neighborhood. By 1941, the need for a new purpose-built dormitory building had become acute and the College responded by commissioning the newly formed Green Bay architectural firm of Feldhausen & Coughlen to design its new building. The firm's response was a four-story, brick-clad building housing 150 students that is the finest Neo-Classical Revival style building in De Pere and also the first building that the College had ever built that was used exclusively for student housing. The new building, known at first as Residence Hall, was dedicated in September of 1942 and it sits on a riverfront site located between Marsh and Millar streets that is just south of the Ray Van Den Heuvel Family Campus Center. In order to acquire this site the College first purchased five existing houses, some of which occupied as many as three lots, and moved three of them to other lots purchased as part of an exchange. The other two houses remained in place after the dormitory was finished and they continued to be used by the College for some years afterwards but are no longer extant. In 1954, the new dormitory was named Berne Hall after the Norbertine Order's mother house in the Netherlands, but in 1979 it was renamed Dennis M. Burke Hall after the second president of the College.

Thus, by 1942, St. Norbert College's campus consisted of four buildings; Main Hall, Boyle Hall, I. F. Van Dyke Hall, and Burke Hall. The campus grounds also abutted the grounds associated with St. Joseph Church and St. Norbert Abbey. By this time, the campus grounds had been landscaped and planted with

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<sup>56</sup> "Ground Broken for Collage Gymnasium." *De Pere Journal-Democrat*, November 14, 1929, p. 1. The "White Fathers" is a reference to the white cassocks that members of the Norbertine Order wear.



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grass, simple linear paths connected the various buildings, and the whole ensemble now looked like the typical college campus that it was. Nevertheless, this was still a small campus that occupied just three contiguous city blocks, the campus then faced onto Second Street, and an aerial photo of the campus taken in 1943 shows that at that date the campus was still surrounded by the larger residential neighborhood that it was in the process of transforming.<sup>57</sup>

Between 1942 and 1956, only one more building was added to the campus and this was a temporary one. The College had long been in need of a separate science building and out of necessity it had even held some of its science classes in the private houses it had acquired over the years. In 1947, though, a number of war surplus buildings on U.S. Armed Forces bases became available for purchase and as a result the College acquired several from Camp McCoy, located in Monroe County, and had them reassembled into a single building on the campus. This building was located just behind St. Joseph Church and St. Norbert Abbey and it continued to be used for science instruction until a new science building (Dr. John R. Minahan Science Hall) was built in 1967; the temporary building was demolished in 1980.<sup>58</sup>

The continued growth of the College's student body continued to drive new construction and resulted in a new era of construction on the campus that is still underway even today. The first of the new buildings on campus in the 1950s and 1960s was Frank J. Sensenbrenner Hall, which was the second residence hall built on the campus. This new three-story, L-plan building was constructed in 1956 just to the west of Dennis M. Burke Hall and it housed 180 students and was the first building on the campus to be designed by the Green Bay architectural firm of Berners, Schober & Kilp. Sensenbrenner Hall was also the first building on the campus to be designed in Contemporary Style, although its classically derived entrance doors and their stone surrounds still linked the building to its Neo-Classical Style-designed predecessors, and it is still in use as a residence hall today and it is highly intact and is included within the St. Norbert College Historic District, as are all of the College's earlier buildings.

Sensenbrenner Hall is located to the east of what was originally Second Street (now Lee J. Roemer Mall), as are all of the campus's earlier buildings. By 1956, though, the College had begun to expand to the west of Second Street as well. In that same year the College also constructed its new Contemporary style Abbot Pennings Hall of Fine Arts on lots it had acquired on the west side of Second Street that faced toward Main Hall. This building, which housed an auditorium and music and theatre classrooms, was designed by Berners, Schober & Kilp and in 1961 the same firm also designed the Contemporary style Frank J. and Margaret Sensenbrenner Memorial Union building, located next door to the Abbot Pennings

<sup>57</sup> *Legacy of Learning: 100 Years of St. Norbert College, 1898-1998*. De Pere, WI: St. Norbert College, 1998, p. 83 (illustrated).

<sup>58</sup> Pieters, Donald L. *Buildings and Memorials: Millennium 2000*. De Pere: St. Norbert College, 2000, p. 51 (illustrated). The Dr. John R. Minahan Science Hall was itself demolished in 2013 to make way for the College's new Gehl-Mulva Science Center, which was completed in 2015.

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Hall Building on the west side of Second Street.<sup>59</sup>

In 1963, Berners, Schober & Kilp designed two more projects on the campus that are also contributing resources within the St. Norbert College Historic District. The first of these was a large, new three-story Contemporary style wing that was added to the St. Norbert Priory building. In order for this wing to be built the Priory's existing 1910 wing was demolished and the new wing put in its place. The remodeled building served as the home of the college priest and faculty members belonging to the Order until 2015, by which time the building housed only a few retired members. The building has now been sold to St. Norbert College, which plans to repurpose the building as living units for students.<sup>60</sup>

The second contributing building built on the campus in 1963 and designed by Berners, Schober & Kilp was the Contemporary style Victor McCormick Hall, a residential hall constructed around a courtyard and with a capacity of 232 students who were housed in 57 four bed and bath suites. This highly intact building is still in use as a residence hall and is located opposite Frank J. Sensenbrenner Hall on the west side of Lee J. Roemer Mall. McCormick Hall was the first residential hall to be located on the west side of this street.<sup>61</sup>

These two buildings were not the only ones built on the campus in 1963. In the same year, Berners, Schober & Kilp designed the twin three-story Contemporary style Lorraine and Madelaine Halls on the north side of Reid Street as well, these being the first residence halls on the campus built especially for the College's women students. Two years later the same firm designed another residence hall for women further east on the north side of Reid Street, this being the six-story-tall Contemporary Style Mary Minahan McCormick Hall, and this was followed in 1966 by yet another residence hall for women designed by the same firm, the Contemporary style three-story Gertrude S. Bergstrom Hall, located on the north side of Reid Street in between the two previous buildings.<sup>62</sup> The firm's last 1960s era campus building was the Dr. John R. Minahan Science Hall, a large Contemporary style four-story building located on the east side of Reid Street and north of St. Joseph Church and St. Norbert Priory. It was completed in 1967 and served the College until 2013, when it was demolished and replaced by the new and larger Contemporary style Gehl-Mulva Science Center.

Since the end of the 1960s, St. Norbert College has built 15 more Contemporary style buildings on its

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<sup>59</sup> Both Abbot Pennings Hall of Fine Arts and the Frank J. and Margaret Sensenbrenner Memorial Union are still in use today but both have been greatly enlarged and altered by later additions and they do not have sufficient integrity to be included within the St. Norbert College Historic District.

<sup>60</sup> Pieters, Donald L. *St. Norbert College Buildings Centennial Edition*. De Pere: St. Norbert College, 1998, pp. 26-7.

<sup>61</sup> Pieters, Donald L. *St. Norbert College Buildings Centennial Edition*. De Pere: St. Norbert College, 1998, pp. 24 and 33. Lee J. Roemer Mall is a pedestrian mall that was built on the campus in 1974 and it replaced the by then vacated Second Street.

<sup>62</sup> Pieters, Donald L. *St. Norbert College Buildings Centennial Edition*. De Pere: St. Norbert College, 1998, pp. 25, 28-9.

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campus, it has greatly expanded its Abbot Pennings Hall of Fine Arts building and its Frank J. and Margaret Sensenbrenner Memorial Union building, and it has also purchased the former Nicolet High School building, the former St. Boniface Church building and its associated St. Boniface Grade School building, and other buildings, and has repurposed them for College use. Today, the St. Norbert College campus extends from Main Avenue to the north to Stewart Street to the south and it is bounded by the Fox River to the east and by both sides of Third Street to the west. In order for this to happen the College first had to purchase 114 lots and 84 homes between 1937 and 1977 for College development purposes and still more lots and buildings have been purchased since then. Today, all but one of the houses and other buildings that occupied these lots has been removed and the resulting campus is now populated solely by the various buildings of the College, which are set in beautifully landscaped grounds.

Architects

William E. Reynolds

William E. Reynolds (1856-1933) was born in Rochester, New York. He came to Wisconsin at the age of three and he was reared in Dodge County.<sup>63</sup> Nothing is known about Reynolds's professional education, but he first appeared in the Green Bay City Directories in 1896-1897, where he is listed as an architect having his office in his home. The next directory lists him as a carpenter contractor but all succeeding directories list him as an architect up until the time of his death. Much of Reynolds's work was undoubtedly located in Green Bay but only a few of these buildings have as yet been identified, including St. Mary's of the Angels Roman Catholic Church and Convent (1901) and the L. Gotfredson Warehouse (1916). In addition, Reynolds designed the St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church Convent in Wrightstown, Door County; Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church in Bay Settlement, Brown County; and the Bishop's Residence, and the St. Matthews Roman Catholic School building (1925), both in Allouez, Brown County.<sup>64</sup> Today, his best known works are those he designed for the St. Norbert College campus in De Pere.<sup>65</sup> The earliest of these is the Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style Main Hall, begun in 1901 and completed in 1903, which would suggest that Reynolds's reputation and training must have been impressive to garner such a commission so soon after arriving in Green Bay. Reynolds's subsequent projects for the College continued up until just three years before his death in 1933. He had completed all four of the buildings built specifically for campus purposes up until that

<sup>63</sup> *Green Bay Press-Gazette*. June 3, 1933, p. 1. Obituary of William E. Reynolds.

<sup>64</sup> "St. Matthews Dedication Saturday." *De Pere Journal*, May 25, 1925, p. 16.

<sup>65</sup> In addition to the St. Norbert College buildings Reynolds also designed the Edwin and Jennie Gutknecht House in De Pere in 1913, and the Irwin School in De Pere in 1924, both of which are listed in the NRHP, and he also designed the rectory of St. Boniface R.C. Church in De Pere in 1916, which is located on Grant Street next to St. Boniface R.C. Church, both of which are now owned and used by St. Norbert College. See: *Brown County Democrat*, June 2, 1916, p. 1, for information about the St. Boniface Church Rectory.

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time, the first portion of St. Norbert Priory, and also the now demolished elementary school building (built in 1915 across Grant Street from St. Joseph Church). Reynolds also designed all the buildings that were originally associated with Camp Tivoli, a boy's summer camp located on Shawano Lake in Shawano County, Wisconsin, and operated by St. Norbert College from the time it opened in 1925 until it closed in 1981.<sup>66</sup>

Feldhausen and Coughlen

The Green Bay firm of Feldhausen and Coughlen was formed in 1941 with Gordon J. Feldhausen, Sr. and Gardner C. Coughlen as principals. Gordon J. Feldhausen, Sr. (1896-1955) was born in Green Bay in 1896 and he was educated in the public schools of that city. Feldhausen's father, Nicolas Feldhausen, was a successful general contractor in Green Bay and Feldhausen got his first taste of building construction working for him at various times early in his career. Feldhausen's real love, though, was architecture and in 1915 he got employment in the architectural offices of William E. Reynolds in Green Bay, where he helped prepare the plans for Francis M. Boyle Hall on the St. Norbert College campus. The following year, Feldhausen spent working for his father, but in 1917 he returned to Reynolds' office and he worked there until early 1920. Later in 1920, Feldhausen worked for the Green Bay architectural firm of Foeller & Schober, but for the next four years, from 1921 and 1924, he worked with his father in the construction business. During this same period, Feldhausen also undertook a course in structural engineering through the University of Wisconsin Extension program that was supplemented by private tutoring from professors associated with St. Norbert College. In 1924, Feldhausen left his father's employ and went to work in the architectural offices of Harry Carr in Green Bay and finally, in 1926, he opened his own architectural office in that city. From 1926 until 1941, Feldhausen designed a wide variety of buildings in and around Green Bay, including a large stadium structure for St. Norbert College built in 1937 on College-owned land located a few blocks southwest of the College.<sup>67</sup> In 1941, Feldhausen associated with Gardner C. Coughlen in a new firm based in Green Bay called Feldhausen and Coughlen.

Gardner C. Coughlen (1887-1953) was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1887, the son of Harry G. and Bertha W. Coughlen. After finishing his secondary schooling Coughlen enrolled in the Illinois School of Architecture, from which he graduated, and from the 1910s through the 1920s he practiced architecture in Chicago, where he sometimes had his own firm and sometimes was employed by

<sup>66</sup> "St. Norbert's Summer Camp Named Tivoli." *De Pere Journal-Democrat*, April 30, 1925, p. 1. See also: "Boy's Camp on Shawano Lake Scene of Bustle and Action." *De Pere Journal-Democrat*, July 16, 1925, p. 11 (illustrated). The Camp Tivoli buildings designed by Reynolds have now been demolished.

<sup>67</sup> Pieters, Donald L. *St. Norbert College Buildings Centennial Edition*. De Pere: St. Norbert College, 1998, pp. 10-11. This stadium has now been demolished and has been replaced by a much larger modern stadium and sports complex belonging to the College.

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others, including Weary & Alford, a noted Chicago firm that specialized in the design of banks and office buildings.<sup>68</sup> In addition, Coughlen acted as the executive secretary of The American Specifications Institute in Chicago while he was with Weary & Alford and he was a member of the A.I.A. from 1922 to 1930. Nothing has been found out about his life in the 1930s, but in 1941 he moved to Green Bay with his wife and children and entered into a partnership with Gordon J. Feldhausen, Sr. The new firm's first project was the Neo-Classical style Dennis M. Burke Hall on the St. Norbert campus, the design of which was completed in June of 1941, and the building itself in 1942.<sup>69</sup> The firm continued to design buildings in the war years that followed, most of them being in Green Bay, including the Malcore Funeral Home (AHI# 212161). In 1946, the partnership was dissolved and the partners went their separate ways. Gardner C. Coughlen died in Green Bay in 1953.<sup>70</sup> Gordon J. Feldhausen, Sr., meanwhile, went into partnership with his son, Gordon J. Feldhausen, Jr., in 1950, and they were still in practice together in Green Bay in 1955 when Feldhausen, Sr. died.<sup>71</sup>

Berners, Schober & Kilp

Just as William E. Reynolds dominated the building activity at St. Norbert College during his lifetime, so too did the Green Bay firm of Berners, Schober & Kilp in the first three decades after World War II. Berners, Schober & Kilp evolved from the firm of Foeller, Schober & Stephenson, which had become one of the most important architectural firms in northeastern Wisconsin since its founding in Green Bay in 1895. The founding partner was Henry A. Foeller (1871-1938), who was born in the French province of Alsace in 1871, the 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 1906, when he formed a partnership with Max W. Schober (1880-1965), a Green Bay native and graduate of the University of Illinois' special course in architecture, who had begun his career as a draughtsman in Foeller's office. The new firm, Foeller & Schober, soon became the most important one in Green Bay,

<sup>68</sup> While with Weary and Alford, Coughlen designed, among other things, the Noel State Bank Building in Chicago in 1919, and the Peoples Bank & Trust Co. Building in Marietta, OH, the People's Bank & Trust Co. Building in West Frankfurt, IL, and a bank and office building for the Woodlawn National Bank in Chicago, all in 1920.

<sup>69</sup> "New Residence Hall on St. Norbert Campus to Be Dedicated Next Monday." *De Pere Journal-Democrat*, October 1, 1942, p. 1 (illustrated).

<sup>70</sup> "Gardner Coughlen Dies at Home Here" *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, October 29, 1953, p. 12. Obituary of Gardner C. Coughlen.

<sup>71</sup> "Architect Dies Tuesday Night." *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, November 15, 1955. Obituary of Gordon Feldhausen, Sr. See also: Koyl, George S. (ed.) *American Architects Directory*. New York: R. R. Bowker Co., 1956, p. 167.

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a position it continued to maintain long after the death of the original partners.

A major reason for this success was the skill that the firm showed in attracting new architects 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, (1898-1992), who was born in Port Washington, Wisconsin, and raised and educated in that community. Berners subsequently graduated from the University of Illinois department of architecture in 1921 and became an engineer. In 1925, Berners came to Green Bay, where he was promptly employed in the offices of Foeller & Schober, and in 1928 he was made a partner in the firm, which was renamed Foeller, Schober & Berners. Berners eventually also became certified as an architect and was later honored by being named a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, as was Henry A. Foeller before him. Later, other partners would also join the firm, including Paul A. Kilp (1910-2001) who was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin in 1910, received a degree in architecture from the University of Minnesota in 1934, and joined Berners & Schober in 1962.<sup>72</sup>

Not surprisingly, given its close proximity to De Pere, this firm designed more buildings in De Pere than any other known firm between 1904 and the present, and most of them are 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, including the De Pere Public Library located at 300 Main Avenue, which was built in 1937 and is listed in the NRHP (NRIS# 02001106), as is the firm's Nicolet High School, which was built in 1923 and is now owned by St. Norbert College, which operates it as the Pennings Activity Center.

The first building on the St. Norbert College campus designed by Berners, Schober & Kilp was the Frank J. Sensenbrenner Hall, a men's dormitory built in 1956 and which is included within the St. Norbert College Historic District. Also included within the District is Victor McCormick Hall, built in 1963, as is the firm's 1963 wing for St. Joseph Priory. These are not the only campus buildings designed by this firm; however, there are eight more buildings on the campus designed by this firm that are outside the district.<sup>73</sup>

New projects are still being created today by the successor firm Berners-Schober Associates, Inc. It is now one of the oldest, if not *the* oldest, continuously operating architectural firms in Wisconsin.

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<sup>72</sup> Koyl, George S. (ed.) *American Architects Directory*. New York: R. R. Bowker Co., 1970, p. 488.

<sup>73</sup> These buildings include: Abbot Pennings Hall of Fine Arts (1956); Frank J. & Margaret Sensenbrenner Memorial Union (1961); Lorraine and Madeline Halls (1963); Mary Minahan McCormick Hall (1965); Gertrude S. Bergstrom Hall (1966); Dr. John R. Minahan Science Hall (built in 1967 and demolished in 2013); Todd Wehr Library (1978); and the Schuldes Sports Center (1979).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 31

St. Norbert College Historic District  
De Pere, Brown County, WI

Builder

Joseph LeClair

Joseph LeClair (1838-?) was one of the more active contractors in De Pere in the 1880s but little is known about his personal history. LeClair was born in Canada in 1838 and he eventually made his way to De Pere. The 1880 U. S. Census records show that he was then employed as a carpenter and that he was single and was living in De Pere at that time with other members of his family. Still, while personal information about LeClair is lacking, a number of the buildings he constructed have been identified and are extant, including St. Joseph Church on the St. Norbert College campus. The following list of extant buildings that he built was compiled from contemporary De Pere newspapers.

102 N. Michigan St.	W. P. Call House	1886 <sup>74</sup>
521 N. Michigan St.	Joseph LeClair Residence	1887 <sup>75</sup>
112-18 N. Broadway	Steckart & Falck Double Block	1888 <sup>76</sup>
123 Grant St.	St. Joseph R. C. Church	1890 <sup>77</sup>

In addition, LeClair also built the following buildings (locations unknown).

Henry Collette House, Main Ave. (west side).<sup>78</sup>

Captain Johann House (west side).<sup>79</sup>

J. H. Scott House (west side, opp. the French R. C. Church).<sup>80</sup>

Of these, St. Joseph Church and the Steckart and Falck Double Block are by far the most impressive. They are both evidence that LeClair was a highly competent builder and also, perhaps, designer, who was entrusted with the construction of several of De Pere's most important 1880s era buildings.

<sup>74</sup> *De Pere News*. October 9, 1886, p. 1., November 6, 1886, p. 1.

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid.* September ?, 1887, p. 1.

<sup>76</sup> "Two Fine New Buildings." *De Pere News*. May 26, 1888, p. 1. The Steckart & Falck Building is individually listed in the NRHP.

<sup>77</sup> "The New St. Joseph's Church." *De Pere News*. September 21, 1889, p. 1.

<sup>78</sup> *De Pere News*. October 31, 1885, p. 1.

<sup>79</sup> *De Pere News*. May 19, 1888, p. 1.

<sup>80</sup> *De Pere News*. May 19, 1888, p. 1. The "French Church" was the original St. Joseph R.C. Church, its nickname came from the language spoken by its mostly French-Canadian and Belgian parishioners, and it occupied the same Grant Street site as the present St. Joseph Church.

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**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 32

St. Norbert College Historic District  
De Pere, Brown County, WI

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*Summary of Significance, Criterion C*

The St. Norbert College Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level for its architectural significance. Despite the great changes that have transformed the College since the end of World War II, the St. Norbert College Historic District is still very much the intact historic core of the College today. Individually, many of the buildings within the district are of particular significance, both because of their design and because of their associations with the architects who designed them. The High Victorian Gothic style St. Joseph Church built by Joseph LeClair and afterwards enriched by William E. Reynolds is now the finest remaining example of the Gothic Revival style in De Pere. Likewise, the individual buildings in the district that were designed by William E. Reynolds are of considerable architectural significance, both as individual designs and as his best known work. Reynolds' Main Hall was the best and is now the only extant example of the Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style in De Pere, his Francis H. Boyle Hall, along with Feldhausen and Coughlen's Dennis M. Burke Hall, are the finest examples of Neo-Classical Revival design in De Pere, and Reynolds' design for the original portion of St. Joseph Priory is also a good representative example of this style. In addition, the three Contemporary style buildings in the district designed by the Green Bay firm of Berners, Schober & Kilp are all fine representative examples of the post-war period work of this important regional firm. Adding to the significance of these buildings is their generally high degree of integrity and the uniformity that has been achieved even within the context of differing styles by the utilization of brick with stone trim for all of the buildings in the district.

The district's buildings are also of architectural significance, because they are excellent representative examples of the differing types of historic buildings that were built on older college campuses located in Wisconsin and elsewhere. Typically, the first building to be constructed on a college or university campus in Wisconsin in the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries was a single multi-purpose building that contained all or most of the functions of the college. For instance, the first buildings to be constructed on all of the University of Wisconsin System's older campuses such as Bascom Hall (UW-Madison), Schofield Hall (aka: Old Main) (UW-Eau Claire), Graff Main Hall (UW-La Crosse), Old Main (UW-Stevens Point), and Bowman Hall (UW-Stout), were all multi-purpose buildings, as was Main Hall on the Lawrence University campus in Appleton and Main Hall on the Beloit College campus in Beloit.<sup>81</sup> Main Hall on the St. Norbert College campus is an excellent example of this type of building and when Francis H. Boyle Hall was built on the same campus in 1917, it too was another multi-purpose building that was intended to address the overcrowding problems that increased enrollments had created on the campus. Gradually, as the St. Norbert campus continued to expand, new single purpose buildings such as dormitories and gymnasiums were constructed, and this too is a trend that was followed on all the others

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<sup>81</sup> All of these buildings are listed in the NRHP.



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

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Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 33

St. Norbert College Historic District  
De Pere, Brown County, WI

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campuses listed above and it is one that continues today on both St. Norbert's campus and on the other campuses.

*Summary of Significance, Criterion A*

The St. Norbert College Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Education at the local level of significance for its association with the important role in the educational history of the Roman Catholic Church in both the city of De Pere and in the surrounding Green Bay region. The College has also influenced the history of education in the city of De Pere and the surrounding region.

The district is also eligible at the local level of significance in the area of Religion for its history associated with the St. Norbert Priory, subsequently St. Norbert Abbey, and the early history of the establishment of the Norbertine Order. Two of the original buildings that are associated with the creation of this abbey are intact and lie within the boundaries of the District: St. Joseph Church, and St. Joseph Priory. The creation of St. Norbert College occurred almost immediately after the monastery was founded and it was intended to be both a school preparing young men for the priesthood and to provide training in courses of study that would allow young men not destined for the priesthood to advance into business careers and other secular pursuits. The new college therefore served the needs of both the church and also of the larger community of which the church was a part.

From the time it was founded in 1898 until 1964, when the nearby UW-Green Bay campus was established, St. Norbert College was the only degree-granting institution of higher learning in the northeastern part of Wisconsin and as such it played an important role in providing college level educational opportunities not just for the Catholic college-age students in the region but for students of all faiths and it continues to fulfill this role today. The other seven buildings that are included in the District are all associated with the College and its subsequent development and they constitute all of the principal buildings that were constructed for the College up until 1956 and almost all of the buildings that were associated with the College up until 1966, the end of the period of significance. Consequently, the buildings in the St. Norbert College Historic District embody the early history of the College and of the Norbertine Order which founded the college.

**Criteria Consideration A**

Ordinarily, buildings belonging to religious institutions are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places unless the buildings meet the requirements of Criteria Consideration A, which states that such resources must be: "A religious property deriving primary significance from

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St. Norbert College Historic District  
De Pere, Brown County, WI

architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance.”<sup>82</sup> The St. Norbert College Historic District meets this requirement because of its significance related to history and architecture. The buildings in the District embody architectural distinction because they are fine examples of various architectural styles and they are also fine examples of the work of the prestigious Green Bay architectural firms of William E. Reynolds, Feldhausen & Coughlen, and Berners, Schober, and Kilp. The District also has historic distinction for its importance to the history of education in northeast Wisconsin. During the period of significance for history, 1898-1966, the College was the only degree-granting institution of higher learning in this part of Wisconsin. The College played an important part in the social, educational, and economic life of the city of De Pere since its founding in 1898 and continues to do so today. The buildings that are included in the District are all associated with the historic evolution of the College until 1966, the end of the period of significance.

**Preservation Activity:**

The St. Norbert Historic District is fortunate in that it has leadership, faculty, staff, and alumni who take pride in their historic campus. In addition, the City of De Pere’s Historic Preservation Commission has been active in educating residents of De Pere as to the importance and value of historic preservation, including acting as the sponsor of this nomination

**Archeological Potential:**

The extent of any archeological remains in the District is conjectural at this time. Two sites have been found on the St. Norbert College campus grounds. The first, BR-0408, is known to be located outside the District boundaries, but the location of the second site (BR-0147) is not certain and it could be located within the boundaries.

BR-0147: Campsite/village. This site is located on the west shore of the Fox River in West De Pere. No other information is given in the Archaeological Sites Inventory at the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office; the current status of the site is unknown and additional investigations may need to be completed.

No other information regarding possible prehistoric remains in this area was found in the course of this research. It is likely that many remains of pre-European cultures that may once have been located within the nominated district would have been greatly disturbed by the building activities associated with the development of the area. Archaeological potential within the nominated district remains unassessed.

<sup>82</sup> National Register Bulletin 16. *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. U.S. Government Printing Office, 1991, p. 37.

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St. Norbert College Historic District  
De Pere, Brown County, WI

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**Acknowledgments**

This project has been funded with the assistance of a grant-in-aid from the Park Service, US. Department of the Interior, under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended. Historic Preservation grants-in-aid are administered in Wisconsin in conjunction with the National Register of Historic Places program by the Division of Historic Preservation of the Wisconsin Historical Society. However, the contents and opinions contained in this nomination do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the National Park Service or the Wisconsin Historical Society.

**United States Department of the Interior  
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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 1

St. Norbert College Historic District  
De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 1

St. Norbert College Historic District  
De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin

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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The boundary line begins at a point on the west shore of the Fox River that corresponds to the point of intersection with a line that is drawn parallel to the south curbline of Grant Street extended to the east. The boundary follows the edge of the parcel adjacent to the river and excludes the shoreline. The line then continues in a WNW direction along said extended line and along the south curbline of Grant Street for a distance of 655-feet, then turns 90° and continues SSW along the east edge of Lee J. Roemer Mall for a distance of 750-feet, then turns 90° and continues WNW 170-feet, then turns 90° and continues SSW for a distance of 260-feet until reaching a point located on the north curbline of Marsh Street. The line then turns 90° and continues ESE along the north curbline of Marsh Street a distance of 536-feet until reaching a point on the west shore of the Fox River. The line then turns and continues in a northerly direction along the irregular west shoreline of the Fox River a distance of approx. 1084-feet to the P.O.B. Said boundaries contain an area of approximately 13 acres.

**Boundary Justification:**

The District boundaries enclose all of the land that has historically been associated with the buildings in the District. Other campus buildings that are in some cases located adjacent to those in the District were not included because they were either of too recent a date of construction or else have been substantially altered and have lost integrity. No area of shoreline is included in the boundary.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section photos Page 1

St. Norbert College Historic District  
De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin

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Items a-d are the same for photos 1 – 14.

Photo 1

- a) St. Norbert College Historic District
- b) De Pere, Brown County, WI
- c) Timothy F. Heggland, Nov. 12, 2015
- d) Wisconsin Historical Society
- e) St. Joseph Church, View looking S
- f) Photo 1 of 14

Photo 10

- e) Frank J. Sensenbrenner Hall, View looking SW
- f) Photo 10 of 14

Photo 2

- e) Main Hall, View looking E
- f) Photo 2 of 14

Photo 12

- e) Victor McCormick Hall, View looking E
- f) Photo 12 of 14

Photo 3

- e) Main Hall, View looking W
- f) Photo 3 of 14

Photo 13

- e) General View, View looking W
- f) Photo 13 of 14

Photo 4

- e) Francis H. Boyle Hall, View looking N
- f) Photo 4 of 14

Photo 14

- e) General View, View looking WSW
- f) Photo 14 of 14

Photo 5

- e) Heating Plant & Maintenance Building, View looking N
- f) Photo 5 of 14

Photo 6

- e) St. Joseph Priory, View looking S
- f) Photo 6 of 14

Photo 7

- e) St. Joseph Priory, View looking NW
- f) Photo 7 of 14

Photo 8

- e) Dennis M. Burke Hall, View looking NE
- f) Photo 8 of 14

Photo 9

- e) Dennis M. Burke Hall, View looking SW
- f) Photo 9 of 14

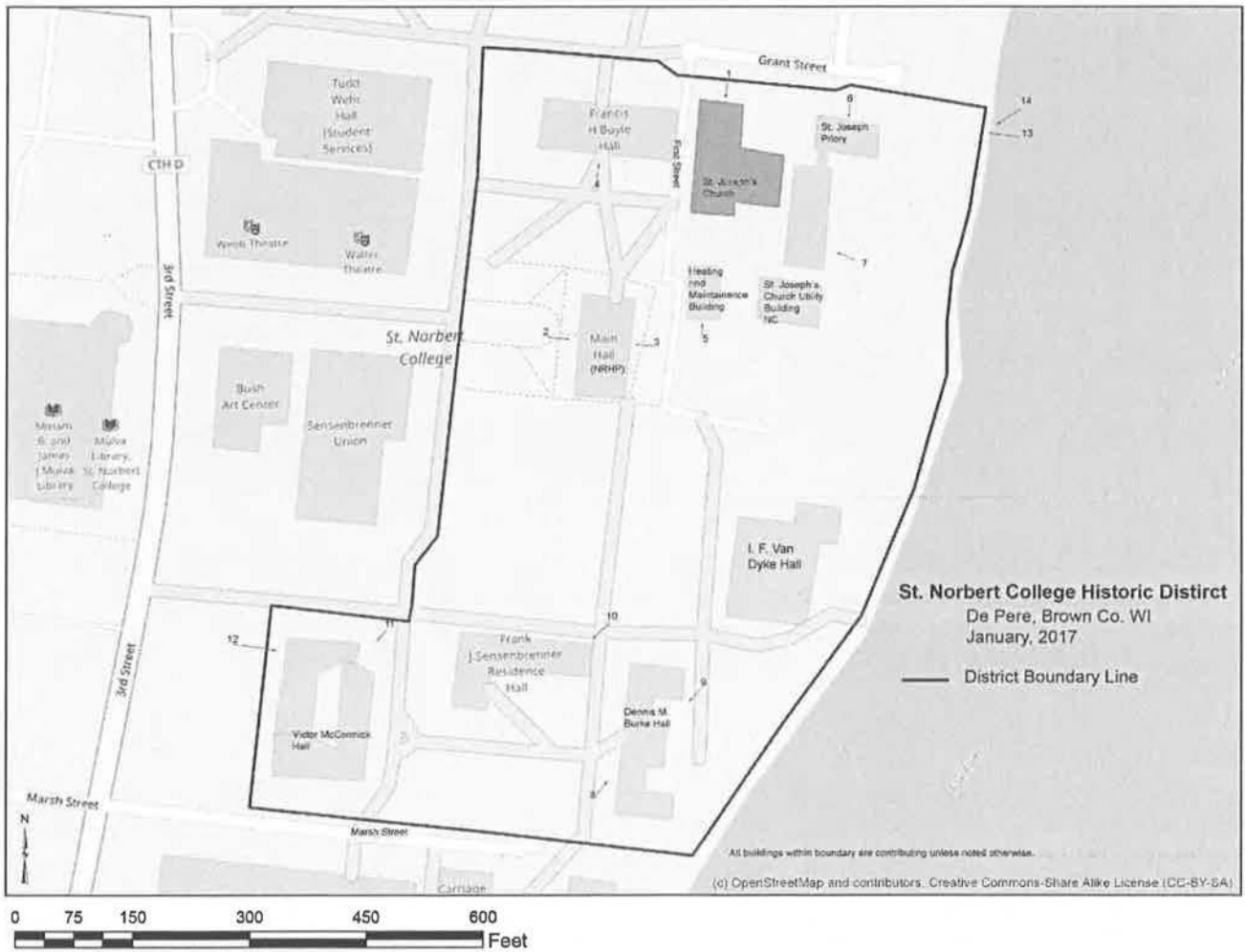
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 1

St. Norbert College Historic District  
De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin

Figure 1: Boundary Map and Photo Key



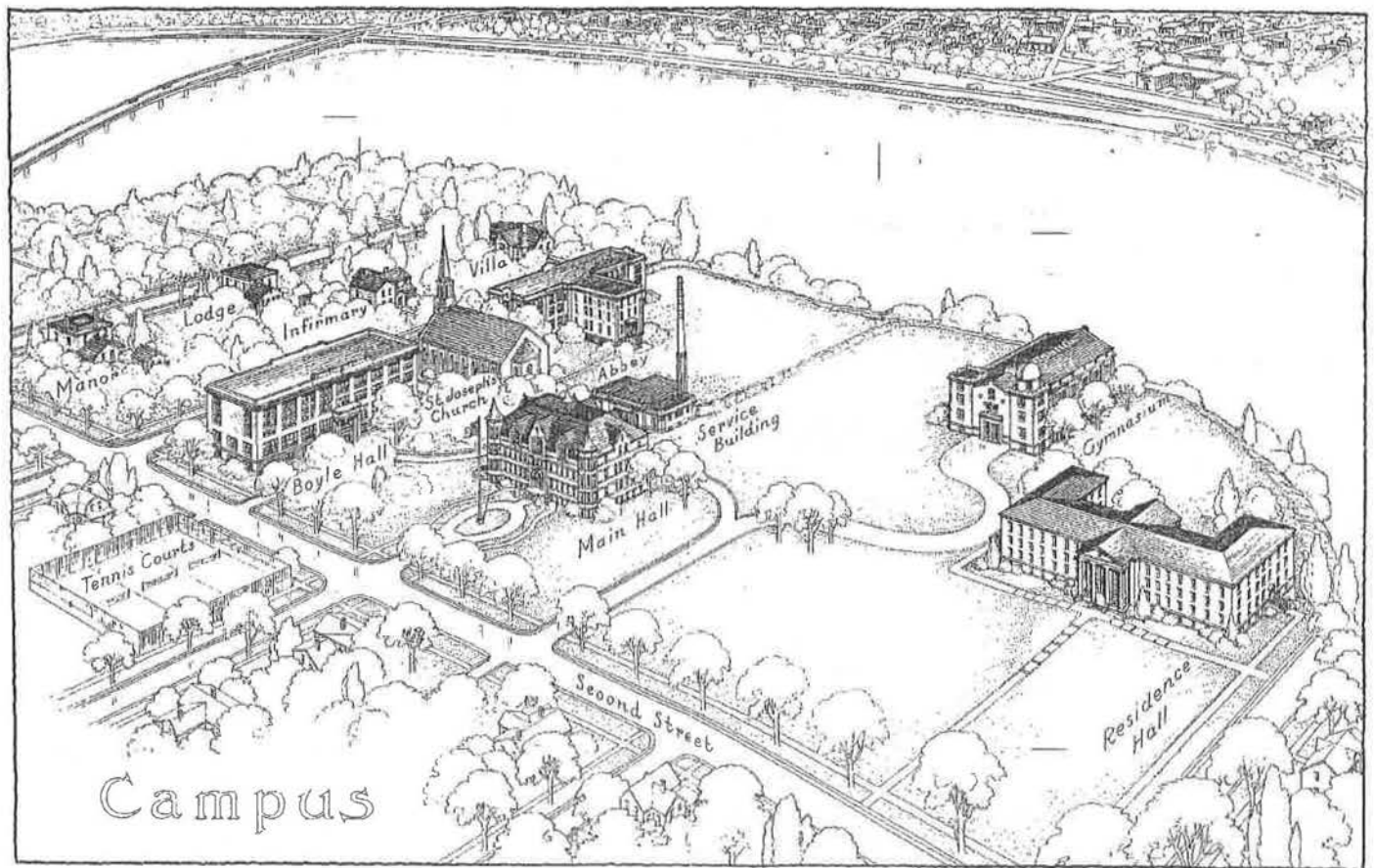
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

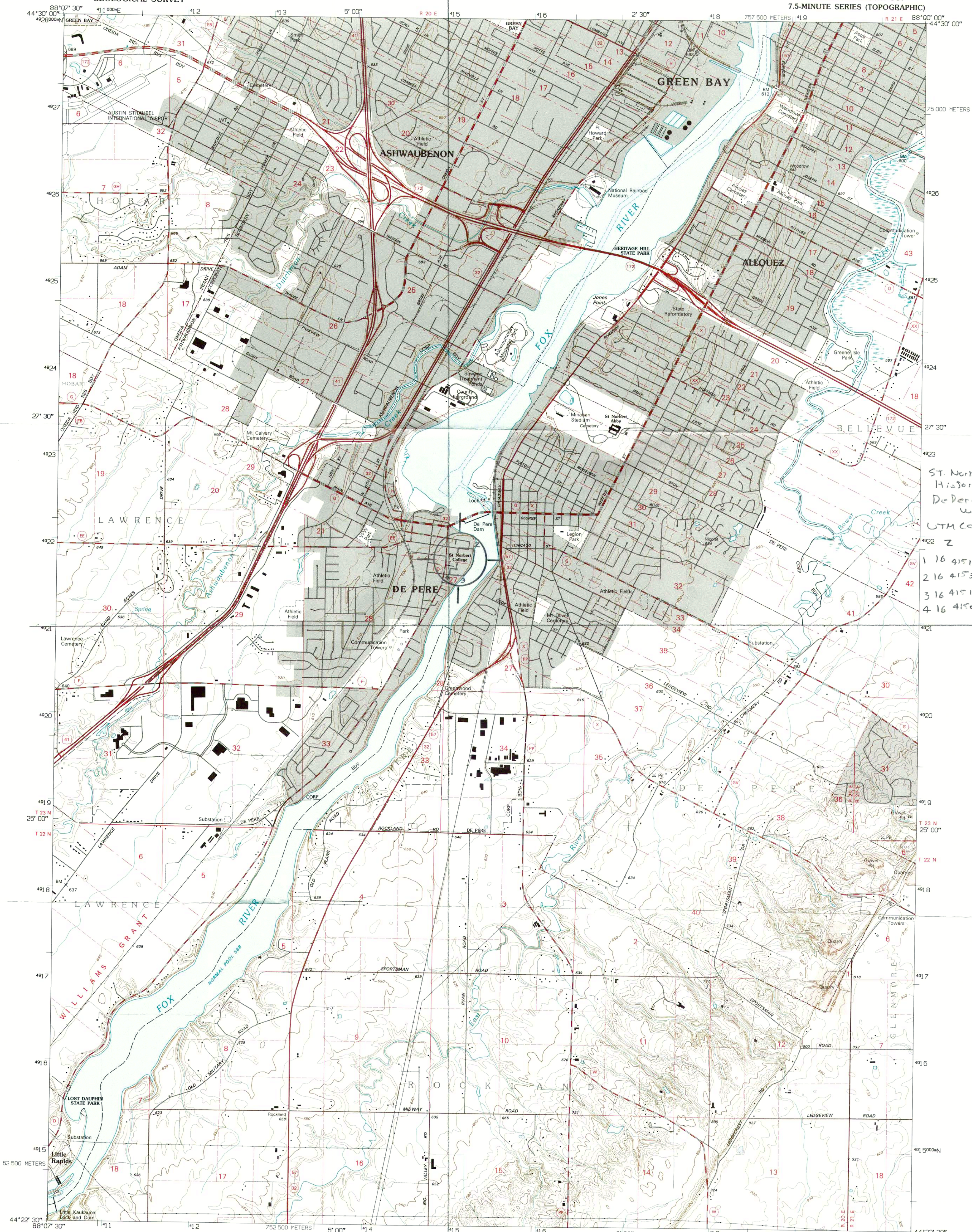
Section figures Page 2

St. Norbert College Historic District  
De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin

Figure 2: Aerial Perspective Drawing of St. Norbert College Campus, 1942.

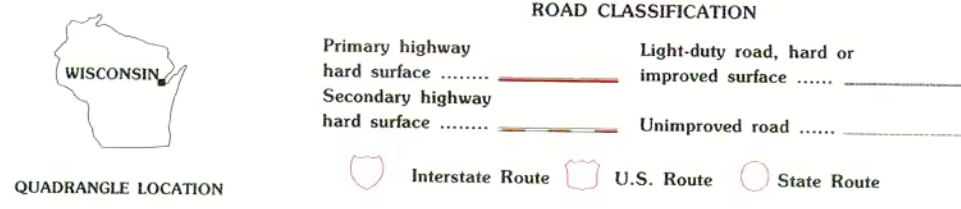
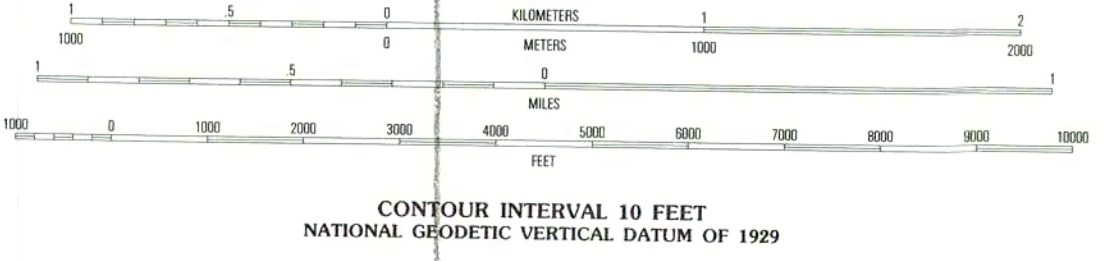
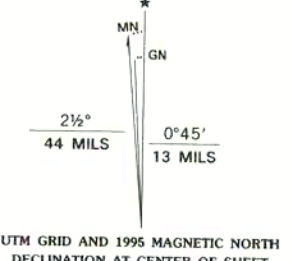






ST. Norbert College  
Historic District  
De Pere, Brown County,  
Wisconsin  
UTM Coordinates:  
4922 Z E N  
1 16 415110 4921900  
2 16 415300 4921890  
3 16 415175 4921580  
4 16 415010 4921600

Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Compiled from imagery dated 1978-79. Revised from  
imagery dated 1992-93. PLUS and survey control current  
as of 1981. Contours and elevations current as of 1978-79.  
Map edited 1995.  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and  
blue 1000-meter ticks: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 16  
2500-meter ticks: Wisconsin Coordinate System of 1983 (central zone)  
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed  
corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27  
for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic  
Survey NADCON software.  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map.



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	

1 Oneida North  
2 Green Bay West  
3 Green Bay East  
4 Oneida South  
5 Bellevue  
6 Wightstown  
7 Cornish  
8 Marquette

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES

DE PERE, WI  
44088-D1-TF-024  
1992  
DMA 3372 1E-SERIES V861

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST





HANDICAP PARKING

NO PARKING

HANDICAP PARKING





400 First Street

Kenmore  
100-444-5022  
800-361-8899







103 Grant Street  
St. Joseph Hall

UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH ALABAMA







100 Marsh Street  
University of Northern Iowa







VICTOR  
MCCORMICK  
HALL

VICTOR  
MCCORMICK  
HALL



585 Third Street





National Register of Historic Places  
Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.





WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



Ms. Barbara Wyatt  
National Register Historian  
National Park Service  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

March 6, 2018

NRHP Reference number: SG10001658

Dear Ms. Wyatt:

Enclosed is the amended St. Norbert College Historic District nomination. After careful review of your return comments we have made revisions that we believe address your concerns. I have provided a summary below to help identify where in the document we have made changes as they relate to your review comments.

1. Better context is needed to explain national significance for the church.  
The district is clearly eligible at the local level, but better context is needed for an explanation of national significance for the church. The church is said to be “significant at the national level as the birthplace of the Norbertine religious order in the United States” (p8-1). The national significance of the Norbertine order should be documented.

Your comments continue with numerous questions that should be answered in building a case for this higher level of significance.

Answer: Based on our discussions, we agree that not enough work has been done to establish significance at the national level and at this time we simply do not have the resources to pursue the additional work needed for this argument, particularly to untangle the appropriateness of whether this attribution should go to St. Norbert College or to the Namur Belgian Historic District. Therefore, we agree to remove this level of significance from consideration at this time and request that consideration be given to this district at the local level of significance.

The nomination has been edited to reflect this change. These edits may be found on pages: 8-1, last sentence, and 8-33, second paragraph.

We appreciate the opportunity to make these clarifications to this St. Norbert College Historic District nomination and believe we have addressed your concerns. Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Peggy Veregin  
National Register Coordinator  
608.264.6501  
[peggy.veregin@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:peggy.veregin@wisconsinhistory.org)

enclosure



WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



TO: Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Peggy Veregin

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination Resubmittal: NRIS #SG10001658

The following materials are submitted on this 6th day of March 2018,  
for the nomination of the St. Norbert College Historic District to the National Register  
of Historic Places:

- 1 Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
- 1 CD with NRHP Nomination Form Word Document
- \_\_\_\_\_ Multiple Property Nomination form
- \_\_\_\_\_ Photograph(s)
- \_\_\_\_\_ CD with electronic images
- \_\_\_\_\_ USGS map(s)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
- 1 Piece(s) of correspondence
- X Other Resubmittal of returned nomination \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
- \_\_\_\_\_ This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- \_\_\_\_\_ The enclosed owner objection(s) do \_\_\_\_\_ do not \_\_\_\_\_  
constitute a majority of property owners.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED  
FEB 02 2017

# CITY OF DE PERE

335 South Broadway  
De Pere, WI 54115  
Fax No.: 920/339-4049  
Web: <http://www.de-pere.org>



January 31, 2017

Ms. Peggy Veregin, National Register Coordinator  
Wisconsin Historical Society  
816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706

RE: City of De Pere Historic Preservation Commission Supports the State and National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the proposed St. Norbert College Historic District

Dear Ms. Veregin:

During a special meeting on January 23, 2017, the City of De Pere Historic Preservation Commission reviewed a nomination application to add the **proposed St. Norbert College Historic District** to the State and National Register of Historic Places (*see attached general location map*). During the meeting, the **De Pere Historic Preservation Commission voted in support of the nomination by a vote of 4-0**. One Committee member abstained from voting due to employment at St. Norbert College.

Please use this letter as an acknowledgement of support by the Historic Preservation Commission when considering the nomination of the St. Norbert College Historic District at the State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting in Madison, WI on February 24, 2017. The City of De Pere Historic Preservation Commission plans on having representation in attendance during the meeting.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. If you have questions, contact me at (920) 339-4043 x2 or by email at [pschleinz@mail.de-pere.org](mailto:pschleinz@mail.de-pere.org).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Schleinz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Peter Schleinz  
City Planner

CC: Mike Fleck, De Pere Historic Preservation, Chair (via email)  
Brian Netzel, De Pere Historic Preservation Commission, Vice-Chair (via email)

# SNC: Nomination for National Register of Historic Places



This map was produced utilizing a variety of sources the City of De Pere reasonably believes are reliable, including GIS data, some of which was under development at the time this map was produced. The City of De Pere makes no warranty, either expressed or implied, including no warranty as to fitness for a particular use, of the information contained in or comprising this map.



Map of De Pere, WI Provided By The De Pere Planning/GIS Department



01/16/2017  
Scale 1:4800

STANDING COMMITTEES:  
Natural Resources & Energy, Chair  
Transportation & Veterans Affairs

**ROBERT L. COWLES**

Wisconsin State Senator  
2nd Senate District

JOINT COMMITTEES  
Audit Committee, Co-Chair  
Information Policy and Technology

February 20, 2017

Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board  
c/o Peggy Veregin  
Wisconsin Historical Society  
816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board,

Please accept this letter in support of the proposed St. Norbert College Historic District.

St. Norbert College was founded on the banks of the Fox River in 1898, and has continually proven vital not only to higher education, but to community building in the city of De Pere and the greater Green Bay area. St. Norbert College's historic core contains ten buildings which were constructed from 1890 to 1963. Two of the most notable buildings include the St. Joseph Church, a high Victorian Gothic style chapel constructed in 1890, and the Main Hall, a Romanesque style building constructed in 1903.

Preserving and promoting the heritage and history that runs through the St. Norbert campus should be in the interest of the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board, the Wisconsin Historical Society, and the State of Wisconsin. This proposed district will help to further identify and commemorate the historic core of the campus while the college and the community continue to grow.

As a State Senator representing portions of Northeast Wisconsin, I fully support this effort that will preserve and promote our heritage in De Pere and Northeast Wisconsin. Therefore, I respectfully request that the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board support the request to affirm the St. Norbert College Historic District to the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and for consideration to the National Register of Historic Places.

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter. Thank you in advance your consideration on this request.

Sincerely,



Senator Robert L. Cowles  
2<sup>nd</sup> Senate District

cc: Mayor Michael J. Walsh, City of De Pere  
President Thomas Kunkel, St. Norbert College

Office:  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882  
608-266-0484

Toll-free Hotline: 1-800-334-1465  
Fax: 608-267-0304  
Sen Cowles@legis.wisconsin.gov

Home:  
300 W. St. Joseph Street, #23  
Green Bay, WI 54301-2328  
920-448-5092  
Fax: 920-448-5093

56-1658

NPS Form 10-900  
(Expires 5/31/2012)  
Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

OMB No. 10024-0018



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

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 St. Norbert College Historic District  
other names/site number

**2. Location**

street & number Bounded by Grand Street (north), Lee J. Roemer Mall (west), Marsh Street (south), and the west shore of the Fox River (east) N/A not for publication  
city or town De Pere N/A vicinity  
state Wisconsin code WI county Brown code 009 zip code 54115

**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.)

*Naina Penkuna*  
Signature of certifying official/Title

8/1/2017  
Date

State Historic Preservation Office - WI

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

St. Norbert College Historic District

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:)

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
8	1 buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
8	1 total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

1

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

EDUCATION/college

**Current Function**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

EDUCATION/college

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/ Late Gothic Revival

LATE VICTORIAN/Romanesque

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Classical Revival

MODERN MOVEMENT

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof Slate

other STONE

### Narrative Description

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



**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.

**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Education (A)
- Architecture (C)
- Religion (A)

**Period of Significance**

- 1898-1966 (A)
- 1890-1963 (C)

**Significant Dates**

- N/A

**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.

**Significant Person**  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

- N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

- N/A

**Architect/Builder**

- Reynolds, William E.
- Berners, Schober & Kilp
- Feldhausen & Coughlen

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

St. Norbert College Historic District  
Name of Property

Brown  
County and State

Wisconsin

## 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
- X previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic landmark
- recorded by Historic American Building Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

### Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State Agency
  - Federal Agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - X Other
- Name of repository:  
Mulva Library, St. Norbert College

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 13 acres

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

1	16	415110	4921900	3	16	415175	4921580
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	16	415300	4921890	4	16	415010	4921600
	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	date	March 11, 2016
organization		Telephone	608-795-2650
street & number	6391 Hillsandwood Road	zip code	53560
city or town	Mazomanie	state	WI

St. Norbert College Historic District

Brown

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

### 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.)

<b>name/title</b>	St. Norbert College, Inc	<b>date</b>	March 11, 2016
<b>organization</b>	Attn.: Vice President of Finance	<b>telephone</b>	
<b>street &amp; number</b>	400 First Street	<b>zip code</b>	54115
<b>city or town</b>	De Pere	<b>state</b>	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 Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Returned

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St. Norbert College Historic District  
De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin

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**Description:**

The St. Norbert College Historic District consists of a group of ten buildings that form the still largely intact historic core of the much larger forty-building St. Norbert College campus, which is located in the west portion of the city of De Pere. The St. Norbert College has an extremely prominent location on the west bank of the Fox River and its campus now occupies all the land south of the Claude Allouez Bridge to the north and to Stewart Street to the south, all the land on both sides of Third Street to the west, and all the land east to the Fox River, comprising some forty-nine contiguous acres in all. The buildings in the 13-acre St. Norbert College Historic District are located close to the center of this still expanding campus. While these buildings, constructed between 1890 and 1963, represent a variety of styles, they are unified by excellent design, produced by several of the best architects practicing in the nearby city of Green Bay, by their high degree of integrity, and by the fact that all ten are of masonry construction and are clad in brown or reddish brown brick trimmed with limestone.

The buildings in the district were originally constructed for three different reasons and are of three kinds: buildings that are associated with the original St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church parish; a building (St. Joseph Priory (later, Abbey) that was built to house the members of the Norbertine Order of the Roman Catholic Church; and buildings that were built specifically for College purposes. The earliest building in the District and the earliest and the only survivor of the first group, is the fine High Victorian Gothic Revival style St. Joseph Church that was completed in 1890 to replace the original parish church, which was built in 1871 and was destroyed by fire in 1889. This church is still in use today and its main north-facing façade is oriented towards the now partially vacated east-west running Grant Street in front of it. The same orientation also characterizes the Neo-Classical Revival style 1926 wing of the St. Joseph Priory building next door to the east, whose main façade also faces north onto Grant Street.

The earliest building built exclusively for the use of St. Norbert College is Main Hall, an excellent example of Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style design that was listed in the NRHP October 28, 1988 (NRHP # 88002001). The building is oriented with its main façade facing west onto Lee J. Roemer Mall, which has replaced the now-vacated north-south running Second Street. Main Hall was constructed on land just to the southwest of St. Joseph Church that had been purchased by the Order for this purpose. This land was part of a larger parcel that was bounded by Second and Millar streets and by the Fox River. The gradual removal of the existing buildings that originally occupied the area provided the necessary land on which the future college campus would grow. The next two buildings built for College purposes were both constructed in 1917. These are: Francis H. Boyle Hall, a fine Neo-Classical Revival style, three-story building constructed on Grant Street just north of Main Hall with a principal façade that faces south towards that building; and the Heating Plant and Maintenance Building, originally a Neo-Classical style-inspired building that is located just behind both Main Hall and St. Joseph Church. These buildings were originally joined by the St. Joseph's parish school, built in 1917 on the north side of Grant Street; it was demolished in 2013.

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Thus, by 1917, six buildings comprised the core of what would become the current, much larger college campus. The St. Joseph Church and the St. Joseph's parish school still served some parish functions in 1917, while the other four were dedicated almost exclusively to College functions. Between 1917 and 1956, just two more buildings would be added to the campus. The first of these, the Tudor Revival style-influenced I. F. Van Dyke Hall, was built as a gymnasium in 1930 and is located on the Fox River to the southeast of Main Hall. The second building is Dennis M. Burke Hall, which was built on the Fox River just to the south of Van Dyke Hall in 1942. This excellent Neo-Classical Revival style building was the first residence dormitory built by the College. These were followed by two more fine Contemporary Style residence dormitories. The first one, Frank J. Sensenbrenner Hall, was built in 1956 just to the west of Dennis W. Burke Hall, and the second, Victor McCormick Hall, was built just to the west of Sensenbrenner Hall in 1963.

When the last building constructed in the St. Norbert College Historic District was completed in 1963, the campus was still a compact area that was surrounded on three sides by single family residences and on the fourth side by the Fox River. Since then, however, the campus has expanded enormously and all the single family residences that once surrounded it have now been replaced by modern college buildings built since 1956. Consequently, the ten buildings that comprise the St. Norbert College Historic District constitute a clearly defined and quite compact group of historic buildings that is located in the midst of the modern campus that has grown up around them. In addition, the District retains all but one of the historic buildings that were associated with the College prior to 1963.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The one campus building that was built prior to 1963 that is not included within the boundary of the District is Abbot Pennings Hall of Fine Arts, built in 1956, which has been greatly expanded and altered and now lacks historic integrity.



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appended on the south or back end a structure 20 feet long, for sanctuary and vestry purposes, making the total length 110 feet. The walls will be of solid brick, and brick buttresses 13 feet apart from center to center along the side walls. The building will be 28 feet high from the ground to the eaves, and will be covered by a steep roof in the Gothic style, the interior of which will be finished in three arches, a principal arch in the center, paralleled by a smaller one on either side. ... As many members of the society were not in a position to aid by the donation of money, it was determined to have the church built by "day work" instead of by contract, and in pursuance of this plan the work is moving along nicely under the superintendence of Rev. Father Durin with Joseph LeClair as his right hand man in architecture and construction and Louis Duime as master carpenter, the individual members of the society responding generously to the call for work or money, or both.<sup>2</sup>

The building described above is still very much the core of the building that is visible today. The church measures 52-feet-wide and 115-feet-deep, it has stone foundation walls, and the walls that rest on this foundation are fashioned of red and brown bricks. The main façade, which faces north onto Grant Street, is symmetrical in design and three-bays-wide and it has a center steeple plan with the steeple projecting slightly from the façade and occupying the center bay. The main entrance to the church is located in the base of the steeple, a large rose window is placed above the entrance, and the steeple is flanked on either side by a large pointed arch window that is set into the façade. The east and west-facing side elevations of the church are each eight bays wide, the bays are separated from each other by projecting brick buttresses, and each bay contains a large pointed arch window. The rear south-facing elevation has a centered, projecting polygonal plan apse. This apse has a single pointed arch window placed on each of its two angled sides, and it is sheltered by a polygonal roof.<sup>3</sup>

The building retained its essentially undecorated exterior until 1926, when it was remodeled to designs supplied by Green Bay architect William E. Reynolds.<sup>4</sup> The results of this remodeling was that all of the projecting exterior surfaces on the church's main façade, west-facing side elevation, and portions of its east-facing side elevation, including its window and door surrounds, buttresses, and cornices, were all edged in stone, and a one-story-tall brick-clad narthex, or enclosed entrance porch, was placed across the full width of the main façade. This flat-roofed narthex is Tudor Revival Style-inspired and it is elaborately ornamented with stone trim, and features three, paired, wooden entrance doors, the center pair of which was originally sheltered by an even more elaborate brick and stone porte cochère that has recently been removed. The result is a building that it is more accurate to call an example of

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<sup>2</sup> "The New St. Joseph's Church." *De Pere News*. September 21, 1889, p. 1. The three arches in the interior refer to the original design of the south end of the interior, the center arch of which defined the sanctuary, and the two smaller side arches, the flanking side altars.

<sup>3</sup> Foley, Betsy. "100 Years Ago: Old St. Joseph's Rises Again." *Green Bay: Voyageur Magazine*, Vol. 7, No. 2, Winter/Spring, 1991, pp. 51-52 (illustrated). This article gives a good general history of the church up to 1991.

<sup>4</sup> Original blueprints in the possession of Berners-Schober Associates, Inc., in Green Bay. Company archives, Stick No. 361.K.

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St. Norbert College Historic District  
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the High Victorian Gothic Revival style than the more sober Gothic Revival style design that preceded it, but it is, nevertheless, an excellent example of this style.

In 1999, yet another change was made to the church's exterior when a new enclosed atrium was built to cover the space between the church and a new detached wing that was built just to the east of the church. This new feature has a glass roof that is attached to the church and, as a result, the southernmost five bays of the east side of the original building are now under cover. Still, this new roof is only lightly attached to the church itself and the portion of the original side elevation of the church that is covered is still firmly intact inside this new space.

The original interior of the church, however, has now been lost. This very elaborately decorated interior had plastered walls and a plastered multiple-arch ceiling, all of which were profusely decorated with 30 mural canvas paintings depicting the life of the Holy Family. In 1969, as a result of changes arising out of Vatican II, these paintings were removed along with statuary and other interior decorative features. In 1999, the construction of the atrium and other new features adjacent to the east side of the church was also accompanied by the removal of all the other original interior features inside the church. Today, the church has a hardwood floor, the plaster has been removed from the original brick walls, which are now exposed, and the original arched ceiling has also now been removed and the interior is open to the roof rafters. A number of the church's very fine original stained glass windows are still extant and still in place, and the building continues to serve as the parish church of the campus.

400 First St.                      Main Hall                      1903                      C / NRHP

The campus's Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style Main Hall was built in 1903 as the College's first purpose-built collegiate building. It was designed by Green Bay architect William E. Reynolds and is individually listed in the NRHP (#88002001).<sup>5</sup> The building is located to the southwest of St. Joseph Church, is rectilinear in plan, measures 116-feet-wide by 64-feet-deep, and is three-and-one-half-stories tall on a cut stone, raised foundation. A broad dressed ashlar limestone watercourse encircles the building just above the top of the building's foundation and the walls above that rest on this foundation are clad in orange brick.

The building's main façade faces west and is symmetrical in design and thirteen-bays-wide. The two end bays consist of twin four-story-tall octagonal plan corner towers that project out from the façade, the façade's center bay consists of a broad, slightly projecting gable-roofed pavilion that contains the main entrance door to the building in its first story and windows in its second and third stories that light the building's main staircase, and five bays are located on each side of this pavilion, each of

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<sup>5</sup> Original blueprints in the possession of Berners-Schober Associates, Inc., in Green Bay. Company archives, Stick No. 361.E.



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which contains a single one-over-one-light window in each of its two stories. The façade's third story consists of the upper stories of the corner towers at either end, both of which are crowned by a polygonal plan eight-sided roof, while the upper story of the center pavilion is crowned by a wide gable-roofed dormer that contains a very large semi-circular stilted arch multi-pane window. Similar but even larger stilted arch windows are placed in the two slightly projecting wall dormers that crown the third, fourth and fifth, and the ninth, tenth, and eleventh bays from the right. The entire building is sheltered by a hipped and decorated main roof, on whose flat surface is placed a small circular plan belvedere whose conical roof is supported by slender Doric order columns.

The north and south end elevations of the building are both asymmetrical in design and their dominant features are the four-story-tall corner towers that comprise their westernmost bays. A broad, gable-roofed wall dormer is roughly centered in the attic story on the remaining portion of each elevation. Four two-story-tall bays are placed below the dormer on the north-facing elevation, five are placed below the dormer on the south-facing one, and each bay contains, or once contained, a one-over-one-light window in each of its stories.

Main Hall's east-facing rear elevation is fifteen-bay wide, and it also features three gable-roofed wall dormers in its attic story that are arrayed in a symmetrical fashion that corresponds to the position of the three dormers on the main façade. The overall design of this elevation, however, is asymmetrical. Placed just to the left (south) of the left-hand of these three dormers is a large, slightly projecting chimney stack that extends upward from ground level and pierces the cornice of the main roof as it terminates above roof level. In addition, a second main entrance door is located in this elevation's first story and it is placed between the first and second bays from the right (north). The remaining bays on this elevation are all two-stories-tall and each of these bays contains a one-over-one-light window in each of its stories.

Typical Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style features of the building's design include the use of contrasting smooth-faced brick and rock-faced stone, large arched openings, including the windows in the dormers on both the main façade and rear elevation and also the main entrances, which are both surmounted with semi-circular-arched transoms, the one on the main façade of which is also enframed with large stone voussoirs that are supported by two large stone dwarf columns as well, another typical feature of the style.

When it was first built, Main Hall contained almost all the functions of the College, including offices, classrooms, dormitory style living spaces, a kitchen, a dining room, an auditorium, and a library. As College needs changed and as new buildings became available, this interior was altered. Nevertheless, important features of the original interior such as the main staircase still remain. The building as a whole is in excellent condition and retains a very high degree of integrity; it is now mostly used for the College's administrative offices.

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163 Grant St. Francis H. Boyle Hall 1917 C

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Francis H. Boyle Hall is an excellent, multi-purpose, Neo-Classical Revival style building that was completed in 1917 and was designed by Green Bay architect William E. Reynolds.<sup>6</sup> The building is located just to the west of St. Joseph Church, is rectilinear in plan, and measures 180-feet-wide by 67-feet-deep. It is four-stories tall, has a reinforced concrete frame, and rests on a poured concrete foundation. The first story of the building is clad in dressed ashlar limestone, a broad dressed ashlar limestone watercourse encircles the building just above the top of the first story, building's foundation and the walls above that rest on this foundation are clad in dark brown brick. The building is crowned by tall brick parapet walls trimmed with limestone, which hide the building's flat roof from view.

The building's main façade faces south, is symmetrical in design and nine-bays-wide, and is identical in every respect to, but is a mirror image of, the north-facing rear elevation of the building that faces onto Grant St. The first story of the center bay of the main façade contains the main entrance to the building, and its paired doors are enframed with transoms, lights and sidelights. These are all crowned with a projecting dressed limestone cornice that is supported by two limestone brackets. Two window openings are placed in the second story above this entrance and these windows and the entrance below are all sheltered by a classically derived two-story-tall projecting entrance porch that has a limestone entablature that is supported by a pair of two-story-tall fluted Doric Order limestone columns that each rest on square plan limestone plinths. The center bay is terminated by two pairs of triple window groups, one of which is placed in each of the two stories above. The rest of the façade is organized into bays whose stories each contain either triple or quadruple window groups. Historic photos of the building show that originally the first story of each of these bays contained a triple window group, the second story contained a quadruple window group, and the third and fourth stories of the four bays to the right (east) also each contained a triple window group as well. The windows in the third and fourth stories of the four left-hand (west) bays, however, originally provided light to a two-story-tall study hall inside and as a result, each of these bays originally had three superimposed triple window groups filling its third and fourth stories. All of the original one-over-one-light windows on this and on the rear and side walls of the building have been replaced with modern units and the middle window(s) in each group have now been filled in with brick or limestone.

The same alterations have also been made to the two side elevations of the building. Originally, the building's three-bay-wide west-facing side elevation contained triple window groups in the first and second stories of its left and right-hand bays while three superimposed triple window groups filled

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<sup>6</sup> Original blueprints in the possession of Berners-Schober Associates, Inc., in Green Bay. Company archives, Stick No. 361.I.

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their third and fourth stories.<sup>7</sup> The building's three-bay-wide east-facing side elevation, meanwhile, originally contained a triple window group in each story of its left and right-hand bays while the center bay contained a paired window group in each story. All of these window groups have now been altered in the same way as the ones on the principal elevations. Nevertheless, the exterior of the building is otherwise in excellent condition; alterations to the building's windows have done little to diminish the overall appearance of the building or to alter its contribution to the District.

When it was first built, Francis H. Boyle Hall housed a number of different functions of the College that were well described in a contemporary newspaper account:

The first floor will have a large reception room in the west end, and there will be an office, a library, a reading room, cloak rooms and other rooms on the floor. On the second floor there will be eight classrooms and two large sleeping rooms, or dormitories, one to accommodate 24 and the other 16. On the third floor will be a study room to the west end, and two large dormitories. The study room will extend to the roof, or the height of the two stories. The fourth floor will be devoted entirely to sleeping quarter purposes.<sup>8</sup>

Here again, as College needs changed and as new buildings became available, this interior was altered and the building's original windows were replaced with modern windows of similar design. The building as a whole is in excellent condition and retains good integrity; it is now mostly used for College classrooms and office space.

389 First St. Heating Plant & Maintenance Building 1917/1953 C

At the time that the new Francis H. Boyle Hall was being constructed, Main Hall, St. Norbert Priory, and St. Joseph Church and its parish school building were all heated separately. When Boyle Hall was constructed the desirability of building a new heating plant that would service them all became evident. As a result, Henry Boyle, the donor who funded Francis H. Boyle Hall, also agreed to fund the construction of a new heating plant facility at the same time. This new building was also built in 1917 just to the south of St. Joseph Church on the site of the old parish school building and it was also designed by William E. Reynolds, the architect of Boyle Hall.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> The first three stories of this elevation's center bay are covered by a projecting, rectilinear plan, flat-roofed pavilion that houses a staircase.

<sup>8</sup> "New Building to Cost \$100,000." De Pere: *Brown County Democrat*, February 4, 1916, p. 1.

<sup>9</sup> Original blueprints in the possession of Berners-Schober Associates, Inc., in Green Bay. Company archives, Stick No. 361.H. The old parish school was replaced by a new parish school building designed by Reynolds that was located to the north of Boyle Hall on the other side of Grant St. This new school building was also built in 1917 and it was also heated by the new heating plant. The school demolished it in 2013 to make way for the new Gehl-Mulva Science Center.



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group having a Palladian design is placed in the third story and is surmounted by a stone pediment that is broken at its base. The left-hand (east) bay, meanwhile, has a short, triple-window group in its basement story and taller triple-window groups in each of its three upper stories, the uppermost of which also has a Palladian design and is surmounted by a stone pediment that is broken at its base. Each story of the four center bays contains a pair of windows, those in the basement story being shorter than those above. All the windows in these groups and in the triple-window groups contain original six-light over-one light, double-hung windows; the rest of the windows on this block are similar.

The east-facing side elevation of the 1926 block faces the Fox River and is three-bays-wide. The center bay projects outward from the rest of the elevation and contains a staircase. The basement level of this bay is hidden from view by a flat roof porch that is partially clad in the same limestone blocks as the basement story and which has a brick upper portion. A paired window group is placed between the first and the second stories and another paired window group is placed in the bay's third story. The bay is surmounted by a full stone pediment whose base is formed by the stone cornice that encircles the building and which is affixed to the parapet wall. The two flanking bays each have paired window groups in their first, second, and third stories, and the basement story of the left-hand (south) bay has a shorter pair of windows placed in it while the basement story of the left-hand bay contains an entrance door that is surmounted by a transom light.

The rear south-facing elevation of the 1926 block is five-bays-wide and the right-hand (east) bay projects out slightly from the main wall surface. This bay has a triple window group in each of its stories, the one in the basement level being shorter, the second bay from the right has paired window groups in just its second and third stories, the third bay from the right has a paired window group in its basement and first stories and single windows in its second and third stories, the fourth bay from the right has a single window in all of its stories, and the fifth bay from the right has paired window groups in its first, second, and third stories.

What would have been the rear elevation's sixth bay is now covered over by a three-and-one-half story windowless brick clad hyphen that connects the 1926 block to the larger 1963 wing. This wing replaced the first portion of the building built in 1910 that was demolished to make room for the new Contemporary style wing, designed by Berners, Schober & Kilp of Green Bay. The new wing is three-stories-tall, it is 43-feet-wide by 125-feet-deep, it has a poured concrete foundation, and its principal elevations face east and west and have walls that are partially clad in brick and partially in precast concrete panels.

The west-facing elevation of this wing is seven-bays-wide and it is enframed by a flat, concrete, full-height pilaster at either end and by a similar-width flat concrete cornice above. Each bay is clad in variegated brick and it is separated from the next bay by another full-height concrete pilaster.

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Centered on each of these bays are triple window groups, one per story, that each contains three one-over-one-light windows. These window groups are separated from each other vertically by pre-cast concrete spandrels. The only exception to this is the third bay from the right (south), which contains a door in its first story and whose upper stories are covered with a metal grill that hides the windows behind that light a staircase from view. The east-facing elevation of this wing is six-bays-wide and its bays are identical to those on the west-facing elevation and they each have triple window groups in each story that are separated by concrete spandrels.

The south-facing end elevation of this wing is one-bay-wide and it contains a door in its first story and pair of windows in its second and third stories, all of which were once covered by grillwork like the grillwork that covers the third bay from the right on the wing's west-facing elevation. This end of the building is now attached to a one-story utilitarian form brick-clad garage addition that was built in 1999.

The 1926 block of this building served from 1926 until 1959 as the abbey of the Norbertine Order and the living quarters for members of the Order. When the Order built a new and much larger abbey in east De Pere in 1959 this block then reverted to being a priory of the Order and became the home of those members of the Order who were active in St. Joseph's Parish and St. Norbert College. In 2016, the Order sold this building to the College, which plans to renovate it and repurpose it for student housing.

419 First St. I. F. Van Dyke Hall 1930/2000 C

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Prior to the construction of this building in 1930, student athletic needs were met by a modest brick and concrete building that had been built on the campus in 1911. By 1925, though, the College was in need of enlarged and more modern facilities and it was this need that the original portion of today's building was designed to meet. Originally known just as "The Gym" but renamed for the College's first student, Father Frank Van Dyke, in 1945, this Tudor Revival style-influenced 137-foot-deep by 89-foot-wide building was designed by Green Bay architect William E. Reynolds and was completed in 1930.<sup>11</sup> The building sits on a site that is located just to the southeast of Main Hall. This site slopes steeply down to the Fox River, and as a result, much of the basement story of the building is visible above grade. A poured concrete foundation underlies the building, the raised basement story's walls are clad in dressed limestone, and the walls above that rest on the basement story are clad in dark brown brick.

An excellent description of the building, published in the local newspaper as construction started, is helpful in explaining the building's original appearance:

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<sup>11</sup> Original blueprints in the possession of Berners-Schober Associates, Inc., in Green Bay. Company archives, Stick No. 361.L.

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The gymnasium will be a model of practicability. It will consist of two units. The western-most will be an entrance structure with massive twin towers. Behind this and [to] the east will stretch the second unit of two stories housing on the first floor the athletic service rooms, and the 80 by 110-foot playing floor above it.<sup>12</sup>

The main façade of the original “entrance structure” portion of the building faces west and it is three-bays-wide. The two end bays are treated as square plan, three-story-tall corner towers whose corners are enriched with stone trim laid in an in-and-out pattern bond and whose crowning parapet walls are crenellated. The west-facing elevations of these two towers are identical and they both contain a paired window opening in their raised basement stories and in each of the three stories above, and these openings all contain one-over-one-light windows. In addition, the right-hand (south) tower is also surmounted by a circular observatory tower whose base is clad in brown brick and whose domed roof is clad in metal. The middle bay of this façade contains the main entrance to the building, the original one of which had twin doors each of which was surmounted by a single window, but this entrance has now been covered over by a semi-circular plan glass-walled entrance porch and the windows have been removed. Placed above the entrance in the second story is another paired window group whose windows are wider than the ones in the flanking bays and placed above this pair is yet another much thinner pair that is set into the tall gable and that crowns this bay.

The original building’s south-facing side elevation is seven-bays wide, with the left-hand (west) bay being the slightly projecting south side of the southernmost of the main façade’s two corner towers, while the remaining six bays are associated with the “second unit” mentioned above. The left-hand bay has a paired window opening in its raised basement story and in each of the three stories above, and these openings all also contain one-over-one-light windows. The remaining six bays of this elevation are separated from one another by projecting buttress-like pilasters and they were originally identical to each other and all but one still are. Originally, each bay contained a paired group of windows in its basement story and another larger pair in the story above, the larger pairs being the ones that provide light to the gymnasium space inside. The basement story and part of the first story of the left-hand (west) bay of these six bays, however, is now covered over by a small, modern, shed-roofed, brick-clad, one-story-tall pavilion.

The original building’s east-facing rear elevation faces towards and is immediately adjacent to the Fox River and it is three-bays-wide. The bays are separated from one another by projecting buttress-like pilasters. The downward slope of its site allowed it to have a fully exposed sub-basement story as well as a fully exposed basement story. Both the left-hand (south) and right-hand bays originally had two

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<sup>12</sup> “Ground Broken for College Gymnasium.” *De Pere Journal-Democrat*, November 14, 1929, pp. 1, 8. See also: “Contractor Clark Starts on New Gym.” *De Pere Journal-Democrat*, March 13, 1930, p. 1; *De Pere Journal Democrat*, April 3, 1930, p. 1 (illustrated).

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single window openings in their sub-basement story, a paired window group above in their basement story, and another paired window group in their first story, the latter groups of which provided light for the gymnasium space inside. The center bay had a large door opening in its sub-basement story, a paired window group above in its basement story, and a very large multi-light single window that has a semi-circular-arched upper portion was placed in its first story and it too provided light to the gymnasium.

**Rear Addition**

A large-scale remodeling and expansion of the building took place in 2000 which resulted in changes to this elevation. This project built a terrace across the width of the original south-facing rear elevation of the building that extends outward from the basement story and hides the sub-basement story from view. The paired basement story window groups in the two end bays were enlarged while the group in the center bay was replaced by a curved, one-story, flat-roofed, limestone-clad pavilion that has three large triple window groups set into its curved walls. The first story, however, was left essentially unchanged.

The same project that expanded the building in 2000 resulted in the construction of a large Contemporary style two-story addition to the building that now covers all of the six original bays that were located on the "second unit" portion of the original building's north-facing side elevation. This addition was designed by Performa, Inc., Architects, located in De Pere, and although it is nearly as large as the original building, its exterior was carefully designed to compliment the original. The exterior of this addition employs the same cladding materials as the original: dressed limestone blocks for the basement levels, and brown brick edged with limestone trim laid in an on-and-out pattern bond for the upper two stories. The apparent mass of the new addition was also minimized by having its several units grow progressively wider as they step down the slope toward the river, where it then culminates in a large two-story pavilion whose wall are mostly glass but whose windows are still set within a brick framework that is edged with stone. Most of the windows on the west and north sides are paired and designed to duplicate the look of those of the original main façade's twin towers.

Today, this building now serves as a student center and has been renamed the Ray Van Den Heuvel Family Campus Center. Fortunately, because of the care that was taken in remodeling and expanding the original building, most of that building still retains its original appearance today. In addition, the building's original gymnasium space, with its white tile walls and hardwood floor, has been restored, is in excellent condition, and is currently in use for campus events and graduation exercises.

100 Marsh St.

Dennis M. Burke Hall

1942

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Dennis M. Burke Hall, known originally just as "Residence Hall," was completed in 1942 and was the first building on campus designed specifically to be a residence hall. The building was designed by



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the Green Bay firm of Feldhausen & Coughlen and it is the finest example of the Neo-Classical Revival style in De Pere.<sup>13</sup> The building has a U-plan, it measures 190-feet in length, its two end wings are 70-feet-deep, it has a reinforced concrete framework and a poured concrete foundation, the walls that rest on this foundation are clad in red brick, and the building is sheltered by a multi-hip roof. The site of the building lies adjacent to the Fox River and the slope of the site allows portions of the lowest story of the building to be fully exposed under its south wing.

The main façade faces west and it is symmetrical in design, 190-feet-wide and three-stories-tall and it rests on a raised basement story. The walls of both the basement story and the upper stories are clad in red brick and a broad limestone belt course encircles the building just above the basement story's window heads. This façade is seven-bays-wide, and the middle three bays consist of a slightly projecting full height, three-story entrance portico that contains the main entrance to the building in its center bay. This entrance is reached by ascending a short flight of stairs and it contains a six-light-over-two-panel door that is flanked by six-light sidelights and is topped by a fourteen-light transom. This entrance is then enframed by a limestone surround that is topped by a broken pediment supported by console brackets. A tall, multi-light, semi-circular arched window that is also enframed in stone is placed in the second story above this entrance and a smaller paired window group is placed in the third story above the one in the second story. The two bays flanking the center bay are identical to each other and both contain a tall multi-light semi-circular arched window in their first story that is enframed in stone, a stone plaque that bears a raised coat of arms placed above each of these windows, and their third stories both each contain a paired window group. This pavilion is sheltered by a full height limestone portico that consists of four colossal order Ionic order limestone columns that are doubled by limestone pilasters. The columns support a full triangular limestone pediment whose tympanum is clad in brick and has a bull's-eye window centered in it. The other fourteen bays on this façade (seven on each side of the portico) are all identical in design and each has a window opening in the basement story and another in each of the three stories above. These openings (and almost all of the building's other window openings) now contain a pair of modern operable one-light casement windows that have a fixed one-light transom above them. Originally these openings contained a pair of operable six-light metal sash casement windows that had a four-light transom-like sash placed below them.

The north-facing side elevation of the building is six-bays-wide and is asymmetrical in design. The first and second and the sixth and seventh bays from the right (west) are identical and they each have a window opening in the basement story and another in each of the three stories above. The three middle bays, however, are placed closer together than the other four and while the third bay from the right also has a window opening in its basement story and another in each of the three stories above, the fourth bay from the right has no window openings in its basement story, and the fifth bay from the

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<sup>13</sup> Original blueprints in the possession of Berners-Schober Associates, Inc., in Green Bay. Company archives, Stick No. 361.D.

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right only has window openings in its second and third stories. The first story of the fifth bay contains a side entrance that now contains a modern one-light door, but it retains its original stone surround, having a full triangular stone pediment supported by console brackets.

The south-facing side elevation is similar in appearance to the north side except that the slope of the site allows the basement story to be fully exposed. Here the walls of this story consist of the concrete foundation of the building rather than the red brick found elsewhere.

The east-facing rear elevation of the building faces the Fox River. It is symmetrical in design and features two projecting wings at either end that flank the wider center section. These wings are identical in design and they are each three-bays-wide and there is a window opening in the basement story of each bay and another in each of the three stories above. The only difference between them being that the south wing's basement story also has a sub-basement story visible below it that contains two large triple window groups. The center section of this elevation is dominated by another projecting full-height portico, identical to the one on the main façade except that here the slope of the site has meant that the portico rests on an open-sided reinforced concrete one-story-tall base. The wall surface that is sheltered by this portico also differs from the one on the main façade in that the first story of the end two of its three bays both contain multi-light doors that have a stone surround and full triangular stone pediments supported by console brackets. A window opening is located in both the second and third stories above each of these entrances; the middle bay has a window opening in its second and third stories but has no opening in its first story. The other fourteen bays (seven on each side of the portico) are all identical in design and they each have a window opening in the basement story and another in each of the three stories above.

A local newspaper story that was printed as excavations began provides a good summary of the interior layout of the building as it was initially planned:

Included in the residence hall will be 75 private rooms for 150 resident students, a dining hall to accommodate the entire student body, six rooms for lay faculty members, and a like number for prefects along with a lounge and numerous other features. It will be three floors in height with a full basement, of Georgian Colonial design. ... It will be E-shaped with the central part 190 feet in length and the outside wings 57½ feet. The center of the E will have a lower terrace section with the student's rooms in the wings each headed by the prefects quarters. In the center of the front section will be a reception center with the dining hall, cafeteria and service fountain in the basement and the lay faculty members' rooms on the third floor.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> "Begin Excavations On Residence Hall." *De Pere Journal-Democrat*, August 7, 1941, p. 4.

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Dennis M. Burke Hall is still used as a residence hall today and while changes have been made to the interior over time, the beautifully designed woodwork in the reception area is still intact. The exterior has been minimally altered.

120 Marsh St.                      Frank J. Sensenbrenner Hall                      1956                      C

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Frank J. Sensenbrenner Hall was the second building constructed on the campus specifically for student residential use and it was designed in a Contemporary style by the Green Bay firm of Berners, Schober & Kilp and was completed in 1956.<sup>15</sup> This building has an L-plan, it is three-stories-tall with a full basement story, its foundation is poured concrete, and the walls are of red brick and terminate at a shallow brick parapet wall that hides the building's flat roof from view. The principal façade faces north towards Main Hall, is 193-foot-wide, sixteen-bays-wide, and is symmetrical in design. The first (west) and last (east) bays from the right both contain single window openings in each of their first three stories. The remaining bays all have paired oblong window groups in each of their three stories with the exception of the fourth bay from the left and the fourth bay from the right. Both of these bays contain building entrances in their first stories and while the rest of the building is resolutely Contemporary in design, these identical entrances have classical designs that represent the architect's attempt at linking this new building to the older ones on the campus.<sup>16</sup> Both of these entrances contain a pair of non-original one-light doors that are surmounted by a single transom light. These doors are enframed in dressed stone and are each surmounted by a broken stone pediment. A large multi-light window having a semi-circular-arched upper portion is placed above each of these entrances, is enframed in stone and provides light for a staircase inside.

The west-facing side elevation of the building is 97-foot-wide, is asymmetrical in design, and seven-bays-wide and it constitutes the short wing of the L-plan. The left-hand (north) bay of this elevation is offset to the left of the other six bays and it contains a single window opening in each of its three stories, while the remaining six bays all have paired oblong window groups in each of their three stories.

The 193-foot-wide south-facing rear elevation of the building is comprised of the 38-foot-wide end elevation of the short wing of the L-plan and the 155-foot-wide elevation of the long wing of this L-plan building. The elevation of the short wing is symmetrical in design and has a single bay centered on it that contains a single window opening in each of its three stories. The elevation of the long wing is thirteen-bays-wide and each bay has a paired oblong window group in each of its three stories.

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<sup>15</sup> Original blueprints in the possession of Berners-Schober Associates, Inc., in Green Bay. Company archives, Stick No. 361.K. See also: "Norbertines Will Dedicate New Buildings." *De Pere Journal-Democrat*, May 31, 1956, pp. 1, 8-10 (illustrated).

<sup>16</sup> The same might also be said for the use of red brick as a cladding material, the placing of a stone keystone in the middle of the brick lintels that surmount every window group, and respecting the prevailing three-story height of the neighboring Dennis M. Burke Hall.

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The 97-foot-wide east-facing side elevation of the building is comprised of the east-facing elevation of the short wing and the south-facing elevation of the long wing. The 59-foot-wide east-facing elevation of the short wing is five-bays-wide and is symmetrical in design and its center bay contains a classically designed entrance in its first story and a large window above that is identical to the ones described earlier on the north-facing main elevation. The other four bays all have paired oblong window groups in each of the three stories. The 38-foot-wide south-facing elevation of the long wing is asymmetrical in design and is three-bays-wide. There are no openings in the left-hand (south) bay but the other two each contain a single window opening in each of their three stories.

When completed this building had a capacity of 180 students sharing ninety rooms and contained a lounge room, various activity rooms, a chapel, two-suites per floor for house counselors, and the College's nursery school.<sup>17</sup> Today, the building still serves as a residential hall and the nursery school is still in business as well.

505 Third St. Victor McCormick Hall 1963 C

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Victor McCormick Hall was the third building constructed on the campus specifically for student residential use, designed in the Contemporary style by the Green Bay firm of Berners, Schober & Kilp and completed in 1963.<sup>18</sup> The building has an "O" plan, it being constructed around a courtyard that is open to the sky, and it is three-stories-tall, with a full basement story. Its foundation is poured concrete, the walls above this foundation are mostly clad in red brick, they are crowned with a wide cornice, and the building has a flat roof. A description published in the local newspaper is useful in understanding the building's overall design:

The men's dormitory is rectangular in shape with an outdoor courtyard located in the center of the structure. It is unique for a residence hall in that entry is gained only from the outside of the building: there are no hallways. It is a three-story building and occupants of the upper floors will enter from a motel-like ramp. The dormitory has 37 four-bed units and two two-bed units along with accommodations for one counselor. It is planned that only seniors and honor roll students will use this building. Each unit or suite consists of two rooms plus closet space and bath.<sup>19</sup>

This building was designed to house 232 students and the motel-like ramps mentioned above were located at each of the four inset corners of the building. Originally, these ramps were to be roofed

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<sup>17</sup> Pieters, Donald L. *Building and Memorials: Millennium 2000*. De Pere: St. Norbert College, 2000, p. 13.

<sup>18</sup> Original blueprints in the possession of Berners-Schober Associates, Inc., in Green Bay. Company archives, Stick No. 361.F.

<sup>19</sup> "College Tells Plans For Two New Dormitories." *De Pere Journal-Democrat*, August 16, 1962, pp. 1, 8 (illustrated).

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over but they were also meant to be open to the outside, which would not have been an optimal situation in the winter. Consequently, when the building was constructed, these ramps were enclosed and more conventional staircases were built instead.

The 184-foot-wide principal façade of the building faces east towards Frank J. Sensenbrenner Hall is eight-bays-wide and the enclosed staircases that are placed at either end constitute the two end bays. These staircases are enclosed on two sides by walls composed of multiple glass single lights that are placed within a grid of metal mounting and mullions. In between these bays, the rest of the façade projects outward and the face of this projection is clad in brick and six V-shaped three-story-tall bays are arrayed across it. Each story of these bays has a pair of single light windows placed on both of its two sides and they meet at the apex of the V to form a single V-shaped quadruple window group. Cast concrete spandrels are placed above and below each of these window groups and each of these bays are separated from the next by a three-story-tall portion of the façade's flat brick-clad wall surface.

The 110-foot-wide north-facing side is similar in design but it is only six-bays-wide and the enclosed staircases that are placed at either end constitute its two end bays. The left-hand (east) staircase is shared with the main façade and it is enclosed with glass walls on both sides, but the right-hand (west) staircase only has a glass wall enclosing its north-facing side; the west-facing side is clad in brick. The remainder of this elevation is identical to that of the main façade but here the projecting central portion possesses just four V-shaped three-story-tall bays.

The 184-foot-wide rear elevation of the building faces west and it is also eight-bays-wide and the enclosed staircases that are placed at either end constitute the two end bays. On this elevation, both of the two enclosed staircases have west-facing walls that are clad in brick (their north and south facing walls are enclosed with glass). Otherwise, the design of this elevation is identical with that of the main façade and its projecting central portion possesses six V-shaped three-story-tall bays.

The 110-foot-wide south-facing side elevation of the Hall is identical in design to the north-facing side elevation described above. The right-hand (east) staircase is shared with the main façade and it is enclosed with glass walls on both sides, but the left-hand (west) staircase only has a glass wall enclosing its south-facing side; the west-facing side is clad in brick.

The interior courtyard's bays are separated from each other by thin brick partition walls, there being six bays on each long side and four on each shorter side. Both the second and third stories of these bays have deep, concrete-floored balconies and the windows and a door in each of the Hall's dorm rooms look out onto these balconies. The Hall is still in use as a dormitory and it is original condition.



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**Significance**

*Architecture*

The St. Norbert College Historic District is located on the banks of the Fox River in the city of De Pere and contains ten buildings that constitute the historic core of the campus of St. Norbert College, a thriving Roman Catholic liberal arts college, founded in 1898, and the most important educational institution in De Pere. Individually, the buildings in the district are fine, highly intact examples of the High Victorian Gothic Revival, Richardsonian Romanesque Revival, Neo-Classical Revival, and Contemporary styles. The buildings were constructed between 1890 and 1963. The four earliest of these buildings are the finest examples of their respective styles in De Pere. The district's earliest building is St. Joseph Church, which was built as a parish church in 1896. The district's next four earliest buildings were all designed by William E. Reynolds, an architect who practiced in Green Bay, while the newest three were designed by the firm of Berners, Schober and Kilp, another prominent Green Bay architectural firm. The district is significant under NR Criterion C, in the area of Architecture for its collection of architecturally significant buildings. These buildings comprise almost all of the buildings that were associated with the history of the College prior to 1963. These buildings form a readily identifiable historic core despite being surrounded on three sides by the greatly expanded campus of the College.

*Education and Religion*

The St. Norbert College Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance in the area of Education for its role in the history of higher education in the region. For much of its history, St. Norbert College was the only institution of higher learning in De Pere and in the entire northeastern part of Wisconsin. The District contains all of the buildings associated with the history and development of the College from its founding in 1898 until 1964, when the UW-Green Bay's campus was begun some ten miles to the north.<sup>20</sup> During this period the College evolved from a campus containing a single all-purpose building built in 1903 and a student body of 40 into a multi-building campus that housed a student body of 1700 in 1968. In the process, the College became one of the important Catholic educational campuses in Wisconsin; in De Pere it was arguably the city's most important educational institution. The St. Norbert College Historic District is locally significant under NR Criterion A for its association with the history of higher education in De Pere, and is significant at the national level as the birthplace of the Norbertine religious order in the United States.

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<sup>20</sup> The Period of Significance for History extends from the College's founding in 1898 to 1966, the current NR's 50-year rule cutoff date.

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*Criteria Consideration A*

Ordinarily, buildings belonging to religious institutions are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places unless the buildings meet the requirements of Criteria Consideration A, which states that such resources must be: "A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance."<sup>21</sup> The St. Norbert College Historic District meets the requirements of Criterion A. The buildings in the District embody architectural distinction because they are fine examples of various architectural styles and they are also fine examples of the work of the prestigious Green Bay architectural firms of William E. Reynolds, Feldhausen & Coughlen, and Bernick, Schober, and Kilp. The District also has historic distinction for its importance to the history of education in northeast Wisconsin. During the period of significance for history, 1898-1966, the College was the only degree-granting institution of higher learning in this part of Wisconsin. The College played an important part in the social, educational, and economic life of the city of De Pere since its founding in 1898 and it continues to do so today. The buildings that are included in the District are all associated with the historic evolution of the College until 1966, the end of the period of significance.

**Contextual History**

A detailed history of the city of De Pere and its built resources is embodied in the *City of De Pere Intensive Survey Report*, written in 2001.<sup>22</sup> Consequently, the following deals primarily with the history of St. Norbert College itself and with the surrounding area.

Like most other early Wisconsin communities, the city of De Pere owes its existence to its proximity to water, which provided the state's first settlers with transportation routes, a reliable and easily accessible source of potable water, and the only readily available means of generating power for industrial purposes before steam power became wide spread. De Pere is situated on both banks of the Fox River at a point located some five miles south of the mouth of the river, which empties into Green Bay and Lake Michigan. Because there was a considerable rapids at this location, further navigation upstream was impossible in the days before a lock and canal system was developed.

The city of De Pere has the distinction of being one of the oldest points of European-American settlement in Wisconsin. The first European to see it was, in all probability, Jean Nicolet in 1634, who claimed the surrounding territory for France. In time, Nicolet was followed by two Jesuit missionaries, Fathers Allouez and Andre, who established a mission at the first rapids of the Fox River in 1670. In

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<sup>21</sup> National Register Bulletin 16. *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. U.S. Government Printing Office, 1991, p. 37.

<sup>22</sup> Heggland, Timothy F. *City of De Pere Intensive Survey Report*. De Pere: City of De Pere, 2001.



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1671 the fathers erected a chapel and residence on the east shore of the river, which became their headquarters. These were the first buildings constructed on the future site of today's city. In 1675 this chapel burned and several new, more substantial log structures, including a church, were built in its place. This mission, known as St. Francis Xavier Mission at Rapids des Peres, lasted for almost twelve years but was burned by the Native Americans in 1687 and the subsequent history of this place was then subsumed into the larger history of the French and English contests for supremacy in the region followed by the English and American ones.<sup>23</sup>

It was not until the creation of the Military road system in 1832 in what was soon to become the Territory of Wisconsin that interest in the possibilities of utilizing the rapids at De Pere began to stir interest. The construction of the first of these roads from Fort Howard on the Fox River at Green Bay to Fort Crawford on the Mississippi River at Prairie Du Chien established the first road across the territory and brought wagon and foot traffic up and down the river and past the future site of De Pere. But this opening up of the region was of only limited value to any economically significant movement of goods, and hopes fastened instead on improving the Fox River, which was navigable for much of its length but needed to be linked with the Wisconsin River in order to become a link between the Mississippi and the Great Lakes.

While work commenced elsewhere on the Fox-Wisconsin river waterway, others were laying claim to the heavily forested land that surrounded the site of what was to become De Pere. In 1835, the De Pere Hydraulic Co. was formed and one of its first acts was to purchase a 100 acre plat of land on the east bank of the river abutting the rapids. A portion of this land was then partitioned into lots, which was called the Plat of the Town of De Pere, a contraction of the French "Des Peres."

The following year the company started construction of a dam above the rapids that could be used to tap the water power potential of the river, and when the dam was completed in 1837, the future growth of the city seemed assured. This growth did not materialize immediately, because the company lacked the resources to harness the water power potential and the situation was exacerbated when the dam washed out in 1847. It was only when a new dam was built in the following year that real efforts were made to harness the resulting water power for industrial purposes and it is from this date that the real growth of the future city begins.

Proximity to the Fox River was the critical factor in the establishment of the communities on both sides of the river. The early 1800s was 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,

<sup>23</sup> Maes, Matthew J. "The History of Brown County and De Pere, Wisconsin." De Pere: *Brown County Democrat*: April 3, 1914, p. 9 and April 10, 1914, p. 9.

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that portion of the river between these rapids and Lake Michigan gradually developed into an important Great Lakes port. 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, saw mills, flour and grist mills, and other industries that could make use of the power that would be generated by mechanically harnessing the now somewhat regulated flow of the river.

By 1850 the population of the area had grown to 500 and an event of enormous importance for inhabitants on both sides of the river took place. The first bridge across the river just below the dam, a toll bridge, was constructed which provided a vital transportation link whose importance would continue to grow in the years to come.

*Commercial Development*

The earliest commercial activity that took place within and around what is today the city of De Pere was conducted by merchants catering to traffic moving up and down the old Military roads on the east and west banks of the Fox River. It was not until the first dam was built across the rapids at De Pere in 1836-37 and especially after the first bridge connecting the east and west sides of the river was built across the top of the dam in 1850-1851. It was then that commercial activity at the De Pere site began in earnest. Because this bridge and its successors were the only ones in the entire area that crossed the river for a number of years thereafter, land near the bridge site on both sides of the river quickly evolved into hubs of both industrial and retail commercial activity.

In 1852, Chicagoan Robert Ritchie and his brother-in-law, Andrew Reid, built a saw mill (non-extant) at the west end of the bridge and three years later Capt. Elias Sorenson started a shipyard (non-extant) on the west bank of the river north of the bridge. The following year, a saw mill and agricultural implement factory (non-extant) was started by W. O. Kingsley just south of the bridge on the east bank of the river. In 1857, Mrs. A. B. Williams reported that De Pere had improved since she had left in 1850. "The population all told was about 400. Wilcox & Wager had a flouring mill. There were two saw mills, one owned by Ritchie and Reid and the other by Frank Thompson; four stores kept by Dominicus Jordan, C. R. Merrill, Mr. Kelsley and Mr. Wager, respectively."<sup>24</sup> Also in 1857, De Pere (on the east bank) was incorporated as the Village of De Pere.

The combination of transportation access and readily available water power made the rapidly growing communities on both sides of the former rapids economically viable. This combination also resulted in commercial districts being developed at both ends of the bridge and along the main roads that extended

<sup>24</sup> Maes, Matthew J. "The History of Brown County and De Pere, Wisconsin." De Pere: *Brown County Democrat*: February 12, 1915, p. 7.

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out of these two areas and into outlying areas that were in need of the resources that De Pere was increasingly able to supply. The most important of these roads on the east bank of the river was Broadway. What made this particular north-south-running road important was the fact that it was already the principal road running north to the city of Green Bay, which is located at the mouth of the river, from points to the south of that side of the river. Thus, Broadway was already an important local and regional thoroughfare when the first bridge was built at De Pere and the place where Broadway connected with the east end of the east-west-running bridge thus became a natural place for commerce to develop. This new commercial development was not limited just to Broadway either. Commercial development also began to expand eastward from Broadway along both sides of the east-west-running George Street as well because the western terminus of George Street was the east end of the bridge. Consequently, the point of intersection of George Street with the already existing north-south-running Broadway became the focal point for commercial activity on the east bank of the river.

Similar development occurred at the west end of the bridge as well and for identical reasons. Here too, several already existing and newly created roads quickly came to focus on the area near the end of the new bridge. The most immediately important of these roads was the east-west-running Main Avenue, and what made this particular thoroughfare important was the fact that its eastern terminus was the west end of the bridge. Consequently, commercial development developed around this point as well, and along the three-block length of Main Ave.<sup>25</sup> In 1861, the Village of De Pere, on the east side of the river, and the as yet unincorporated village of West De Pere located in the Town of Lawrence on the west side of the river, joined efforts to replace the old bridge across the Fox with a new one. In the following year an event of even greater importance occurred when the tracks of the Chicago & NorthWestern Railroad reached West De Pere on their way up the west bank of the river to Fort Howard. The importance of this event cannot be overestimated: by this time railroads were rapidly eroding the importance and advantages of river and lake transportation and a position on a railroad line was becoming an imperative for a community that hoped to grow and prosper. Not surprisingly, the place where these tracks crossed Main Avenue further anchored the commercial district that was already growing up along Main Avenue.

The period from the end of the Civil War in 1865 until the financial panic of 1873 was a boom period for the communities on both sides of the river. By 1870, the census of that year showed that the population of De Pere on the east side of the river had risen to 2800 and on the west side to 875. As a consequence, the community on the west side petitioned to be incorporated as the Village of West De Pere, which was approved in that same year.

In 1871, the Village of De Pere on the east side received a railroad of its own when the tracks of the

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<sup>25</sup> Two of these areas are now NRHP-listed historic districts: the South Broadway Historic District on the east side of the river, and the Main Avenue Historic District on the west side.

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Milwaukee Northern Railroad (later the Milwaukee Road) reached the community on their way up to Green Bay, and as had already happened on the west side, property owners on the east side responded with a flurry of platting activity. A Bird's Eye View of the two villages, published in 1871, shows that the settled part of the Village of De Pere on the east side of the river was then bounded by the river to the west, Fulton Street to the north, Huron Street to the east, and Chicago Street to the south, while the settled portion of West De Pere was bounded by the river on the east and north, the C. & NW RR tracks on the west, and Butler Street to the south. Both communities had public schools, there were six churches (Irish, French, and German Catholic, Methodist, Congregational, and Presbyterian), three hotels (California House, National House, and Village House), and three large industries (De Pere Iron Works, Fox River Iron Co., and First National Iron Co.).<sup>26</sup>

The "French" Catholic Church in West De Pere was a local nickname that was given to St. Joseph R.C. Church, which served a mainly French-speaking congregation composed of French-Canadian and Belgian immigrants. This church, built in 1870, was located on the south side of Grant Street and to the east of Second Street. It was Gothic Revival style design and was at first sided with vertical wooden boards but was later re-sided in brick. The 1871 Bird's Eye View of De Pere shows that at that time the area surrounding this church (which would subsequently become the site of the St. Norbert College campus) was comprised of the north-south-running Second and Third streets, which were intersected by the east-west-running Oneida (now Reiter), Grant, and Butler streets, and there was then a scattering of houses located on these streets along with the church, with most of the houses being located on Oneida and Third streets.

*Municipal History*

By 1875, the two villages of De Pere and West De Pere had evolved into the principal trading center of the region and their two well-established business cores were both surrounded by residential plats. In 1876, the following description of De Pere was contained in an advertisement for land that was owned by the De Pere Co.:

The waterpower is made by the first dam on the Fox River of the Green Bay & Mississippi Canal Company. Depere [sic] and West Depere [sic] lie on opposite sides of the river, and are connected by a commodious bridge of fifteen hundred feet in length. Their population numbers over four thousand people. There are eight churches, three public and one private school; four furnaces for smelting iron ore; one extensive railroad car manufactory and iron works; one machine shop; three flour mills; two large wooden ware factories; three shingle mills; four saw mills; two sash and door factories; one stave factory; one hub and spoke factory; five wagon ships; seven smitheries; a steam

<sup>26</sup> *Bird's Eye View of De Pere, Wisconsin*. Madison: J. J. Stoner, publisher, 1871.

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forge and various other manufactories. The Milwaukee and Northern Railroad runs on the river bank through Depere, [sic] and the Chicago and Northwestern Depot is at West Depere [sic]. The Goodrich line of steamers make regular trips between Depere [sic] and Chicago, and the Buffalo line takes freight from our wharves to Buffalo and intermediate ports.<sup>27</sup>

And yet, even during this prosperous period, larger forces would have a substantial effect on the future of the two villages. By 1880, the combined populations of the nearby twin cities of Green Bay and Fort Howard (also located on the east and west sides of the Fox River) was 10,500, more than double the 3,824 of the two De Peres. This difference in relative size has continued until the present day. The reasons for this difference in size and rate of growth reflected many things, and among them was the simple fact that the initial advantages that had led to the creation and subsequent growth of De Pere had slowly dwindled. By 1880, De Pere's water power advantage was gradually being offset by the construction of new coal-fired steam boilers. Green Bay also reaped the advantage of being the final destination point of all the land and water transportation routes that passed through De Pere. In addition, Green Bay's position at the mouth of the Fox River gave it advantages as a port that could not be matched by a site further upstream. As a consequence, the rate of De Pere's population growth gradually began to level off. Nevertheless, the growth that had occurred up to this point was sufficient to ensure that the commercial cores that had been established in the two villages would survive and would continue to grow and evolve.

In 1883, the two villages were both incorporated as the city of De Pere (east side) and the city of Nicolet (west side). Nicolet subsequently changed its name back to West Depere in 1887 and the two cities finally agreed to merge on August 7, 1889, and became known as the City of De Pere. Slightly more than a week later the original St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church on Grant Street was destroyed by fire, although the adjacent frame parsonage and the adjacent frame parish school building both survived.<sup>28</sup> The construction of a new brick-clad Gothic Revival style St. Joseph Church began shortly thereafter, using plans that may have been drawn by Joseph LeClair, a builder and perhaps also an architect, who lived in Green Bay and supervised the building's construction.<sup>29</sup> The completed church was officially dedicated in September of 1890 and it was especially noted at that time for the richness of its interior and its painted walls.<sup>30</sup> An additional distinction was conferred on the church in 1892 when it received papal permission to be named the headquarters of the Archconfraternity of St. Joseph in America and to house the National Shrine of St. Joseph.

<sup>27</sup> Maes, Matthew J. "The History of Brown County and De Pere, Wisconsin." *De Pere: Brown County Democrat*, March 5, 1915, p. 10.

<sup>28</sup> "The Church Consumed." *The De Pere News*: August 17, 1889, p. 1.

<sup>29</sup> "The New St. Joseph's Church." *The De Pere News*: September 21, 1889, p. 1. The church as originally built had a Gothic Revival design but it was enriched in 1926 and now has a High Victorian Gothic Revival style design instead.

<sup>30</sup> Duaine, Joseph. "A Beautiful Church Edifice." Green Bay: *The Daily State Gazette*: March 27, 1893, p. 1.

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These distinctions notwithstanding, the fact remained that St. Joseph's Parish was not large or wealthy; many of the parish's families had unemployed husbands who had until recently been employed in a local factory that had burned just prior to the fire that destroyed their church. The construction of the new church therefore imposed a considerable financial burden on the parish and on the Green Bay Diocese. The solution lay in the transfer of the parish and its buildings to the Norbertine Order of the Roman Catholic Church, under the direction of Father Bernard H. Pennings.

*The Norbertines*

The Norbertines, who are more properly known as the Order of Canons Regular of Prémontré, also known as the Premonstratensians, is a religious order founded by St. Norbert in Prémontré in northeastern France in 1120.<sup>31</sup> The Order grew rapidly thereafter. By 1126 there were nine houses of the Order throughout western Europe and by the middle of the fourteenth century the Order had some 1300 monasteries for men and another 400 for women. By the end of the eighteenth century, the changes wrought by the Reformation, the French Revolution, and the dissolution of the monasteries that took place throughout much of Europe during Napoleon's rule, came close to bringing an end to the Order. By the beginning of the nineteenth century, just eight houses of the Order remained, all of which were in Austria. By the start of the twentieth century, the Order had rebuilt itself and at that time there were 20 monasteries located throughout Europe with some 1000 members.

One of the principal monasteries belonging to the Order was Berne Abbey, in Holland. It was from this abbey that Father Bernard H. Pennings was sent to the United States and to Wisconsin in 1893 in answer to a request from Bishop Sebastian Messmer, head of the Green Bay Diocese, for a priest who could minister to the many Belgian immigrants who had settled in Wisconsin and particularly in the three adjoining counties of Brown, Door and Kewaunee. Bernard H. Pennings (1861-1955) was born in Gemert, the Netherlands in 1861 and he entered the Order in 1879 and professed in 1884. In 1889, Pennings was made a professor of theology and philosophy and master of novices at the abbey. In 1893 he left the abbey for the United States as founding-superior to the American mission of the Order along with two fellow members of the Order. The three men arrived in Hoboken, New Jersey, enroute for Green Bay and their first mission, which was located in the small Door County community of Delwich (now Namur), and there they began their ministry.<sup>32</sup> In 1898, after discussions with Bishop Messmer regarding the fate of what was then the vacant St. Joseph's parish in De Pere, an

<sup>31</sup> A variant spelling of Premonstratensians is Praemonstratensians, this being the original spelling.

<sup>32</sup> Other members of Order had come to the United States and to Wisconsin much earlier, including Father Adalbert Inama, who first came to Wisconsin in 1845 and established a mission church in Roxbury, in Dane County, that subsequently became the still active St. Norbert Parish. Father Pennings, however, established the first monastery of the Order in this country and in the Western Hemisphere.

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agreement was reached whereby Pennings and his fellow members agreed to move to De Pere and take over the spiritual guidance of the members of the parish and they also thus became the owners of the existing parish buildings and some adjacent land that belonged to the diocese. St. Joseph Church and its associated National Shrine of St. Joseph thus became the first Norbertine foundation in the United States and the Order's first monastery in this country.

Besides assuming the duties associated with being a parish priest, Pennings was also a teacher. Before arriving in De Pere he had sent letters back to the Abbot of the abbey in Berne expressing his desire to establish a boarding school for boys in this country. Once established in De Pere, Pennings began teaching catechism in the St. Joseph parish grade school and on October 10, 1898, he also began teaching a Latin class to four local boys, ages 12-15 in the kitchen of the parish school. This class marked the beginning of what would soon become St. Norbert College. During this same period Pennings was also receiving new members of the Order from the abbey in the Netherlands. As the head of the Order's American mission and its Prior, it was his task to assign men to the new missions and parishes that were committing to the Norbertines in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan. As these men arrived in De Pere they were first housed in a small, Second Empire style, two-story brick house located just to the east of the church that had been given to the Order for this purpose.<sup>33</sup> Almost immediately, more space was needed and in 1899 a two-and-a-half-story, brick-clad Second Empire Style wing was attached to the Order's existing house and the expanded building that resulted (non-extant) was then renamed St. Norbert Priory (aka St. Norbert Convent). It housed both the Norbertine fathers themselves, the first classrooms of what would become the new St. Norbert College, and also living quarters for boarding students attending the College.

At this point in time, the principal purpose of the College was (and had been from the beginning) to train young men for the priesthood, but this goal still seemed to be a long way off when teaching began in 1898. In 1899, though, the number of students enrolled jumped from four to twelve and although just a single room in the priory was then set aside for their education, Father Pennings was already making plans to turn this small beginning into something more substantial.

The first formal announcement to the public appeared in 1900. It was entitled, "Prospectus of St. Norbert's College, conducted by the Praemonstratensian Fathers, West De Pere, Wis., established in 1899." This four page brochure acknowledges the formal organization of the educational

<sup>33</sup> A small frame house (non-extant) that was located just to the west of St. Joseph Church was the actual parsonage of the church itself at this time.

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endeavor undertaken October 10, 1898. ... The purpose of the College was "to give young Catholic students, who wish to become priests, a thorough religious and classical education."<sup>34</sup>

*College Development*

To an outsider, beginning such a project at this time in De Pere's history might have seemed ill-timed. By 1900, De Pere's overall population had dropped slightly to 4,038, and the city was entering a more mature phase of its history. Changes in the lumber industry that had previously been of such importance to De Pere were dictating that certain kinds of manufacturing that had once been done in factories like those in De Pere could now be done more efficiently in plants located nearer to the forests themselves, forests that had largely been depleted in Brown County. In addition, other types of manufacturing that had once been done in the city were now being done by much larger firms with regional and even national markets. As a result, industrial production was slowly beginning to lose its importance in the economic life of the city. Fortunately, the Catholic population in this part of Wisconsin was a large one at that time and the desire to have a seminary located in this area was shared by many church members in De Pere and Green Bay and by the leaders of the Green Bay Diocese.<sup>35</sup>

Local resources were again tapped as the shared quarters of students and Norbertines burst at the seams. On May 9, 1901, a meeting was held attended by Prior Pennings and the Bishop of Green Bay, Most Reverend Sebastian Messmer, and his Vicar general, Monsignor Joseph Fox. Local pastors made up the necessary quorum which would begin the transformation of the College.

Indeed the idea of a seminary was a good one, much needed, but what of the young men who had little opportunity for education and needed skills that would fit them for life in the shops, industries and businesses? Most of all the idea of a Catholic College in the diocese was applauded sufficiently that the local church officials and pastors of the Diocese pledged generous support.

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<sup>34</sup> *Legacy of Learning: 100 Years of St. Norbert College, 1898-1998*. De Pere, WI: St. Norbert College, 1998, pp. 22-23. The College therefore became the first college to be established in the United States by the Norbertine Order. This is still true today and it is also the only Norbertine College in the world.

<sup>35</sup> Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.) *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Madison: Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1989, Vol. 3, (Religion) p. 3-22. The 1926 U.S. Census showed that the Catholic population of the five adjoining counties of Brown, Calumet, Door, Kewaunee, and Outagamie, comprised from 50-75 percent of the total population of all church members in each of these counties.



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In a month the *Annals* would report that “It was decided to build a new structure on a beautiful knoll on the banks of the Fox. The building would be of brick, three stories high with a basement.” ... Attention was also paid to the pleas of the pastors, and the same *Annals* notes that the curriculum would be expanded to include a commercial course, “thus extending the usefulness of the new institution.” The cornerstone of the perennial campus anchor, Main Hall, was laid by Bishop Messmer on March 19, 1902.<sup>36</sup>

This new multi-purpose building, Main Hall, thus became the first building belonging to the College that was constructed solely for college purposes, and it was completed in 1903 and it still serves as the administrative center of the College today.

From the start it was intended that the College would be a boarding school for young men and it would admit both commercial and classical students; in other words, those seeking a career outside the church and those seeking one within it. The classical curriculum was oriented towards those men seeking a religious vocation and it followed precedents laid down by the European abbeys of the Order and included Latin, Greek, ethics and philosophy, music, literature, drama and art, as well as the necessary theological instruction. English, math, and elocution were also taught and when the College moved into its new building in 1903 a two-year business course was added to the curriculum, where bookkeeping, typing, and economics were taught. Most of the College’s first teachers were members of the Norbertine Order, but the College also sought out and hired lay teachers to teach its business-related courses.

As is mentioned in greater detail elsewhere in this nomination, the new College building was located in what in 1903 was a residential neighborhood and the College and the adjacent priory and parish buildings were completely surrounded by this neighborhood at that time. Nevertheless, even then, Pennings, the Norbertine Order, and also the Green Bay Diocese were all thinking of the future of the College and realized that if the student body was to grow in numbers, the college would need additional buildings and land on which to build them. As a result, from the onset the College initiated a process of acquiring additional land adjacent to their current holdings as funds permitted, a process that is still ongoing today. The first new building on the campus after Main Hall was a gymnasium that was opened in an adjacent converted former boat factory in 1905 and this was recognition by the College that athletics played an important part in promoting a healthy learning environment on the campus. When this first gym building burned down in 1909, a new one was built and when that one burned down two years later, the College then built a more permanent one on the same site that would serve the campus until 1930.

<sup>36</sup> *Legacy of Learning: 100 Years of St. Norbert College, 1898-1998*. De Pere, WI: St. Norbert College, 1998, pp. 25-26. The *Annals* cited here are *The St. Joseph Annals*, this being a regularly published newsletter that was concerned with the doings of St. Joseph Parish and the National Shrine of St. Joseph and it was edited for many years by Father Pennings.

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Constructing buildings was only one step in developing the College. Because the long term success of the College depended on its ability to also attract students who were not destined for the priesthood, Father Pennings and the other members of the Order who ran the College made sure that teaching in the College was on the same level or higher than other comparable colleges in Wisconsin. By 1911, the College's commercial curriculum had already achieved a high standard and had resulted in the College's becoming an affiliate of the National Business College's Federation and being accepted as a member of the Wisconsin Association of Commercial Schools. Pennings also realized that if the College was to thrive it would need Norbertine teachers with advanced degrees in their specialties. As a result, members of the Order were routinely sent to universities throughout the country to continue their education and acquire advanced degrees to ensure that when they returned to teach at the College they would have the necessary knowledge and credentials.

By 1914, the College's success at attracting new students made the building of additional facilities for classrooms and living units a necessity. Fortunately, at this important juncture in the College's history, the first of many private donors stepped forward to make a new building possible. This was Henry Boyle, a successful businessman living in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, who, in 1912, was seeking a college where his son, Francis H. Boyle, could receive an education. By 1915, Boyle's pleasure at the education his son had received at the College persuaded him to donate \$140,000.00 to the College for the construction of a new multi-purpose building, Francis Boyle Hall, and also a separate heating plant building. The heating plant serviced Francis H. Boyle Hall, Main Hall, St. Joseph Church, St. Norbert Priory, and the new St. Joseph's Parish school building.

Boyle's gift was important to the College and to the city of De Pere.

The proposed improvement is evidence of the success of the college and De Pere is to be congratulated upon being the home of an institution whose influence cannot help but have a wholesome effect upon the material and moral and educational advancement of our city. That St. Norbert's college may continue to grow and flourish is our earnest wish, and the Democrat bespeaks for the institution all the support and encouragement De Pere and its citizens can give it.<sup>37</sup>

Not long thereafter, as construction was about to start, the local De Pere newspaper wrote another article describing the new building, this time in detail, and praising those who were responsible for it:

This will be one of the best buildings of the type in this part of the state and no college or university in the country can boast of having a more substantial, complete and up-to-date

<sup>37</sup> "\$60,000 College Building." De Pere: *Brown County Democrat*, June 25, 1915., p. 1.

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structure. De Pere can well feel proud of the new edifice and of the men who are bringing this city to be known throughout the state as one of Wisconsin's college towns.<sup>38</sup>

That a close, positive relationship existed between the city and the College even at this early date is not surprising. While St. Norbert College was, and is, a Catholic institution, it was also the only institution of higher learning in the greater Green Bay area until the 1950s, when the University of Wisconsin's Extension Division created a two-year campus in Green Bay that in 1968 evolved into the present UW-Green Bay University campus.<sup>39</sup> Consequently, Catholic parents in this part of the state who wanted their children to receive a college degree from a religiously affiliated institution could now send them to St. Norbert. Even those De Pere and Green Bay area citizens who were not Catholic realized that having the College in their midst was a positive development from a civic point of view.

With Boyle Hall in place, the College now had enough classrooms for its students and enough space to house them. In the meantime, the Norbertine Order's own numbers in De Pere were growing and the Order was itself in need of enlarged accommodations. Ever since its founding in De Pere in 1898, the Order had been receiving new members from the mother house in Berne. In addition, new seminarians were graduating from the College and being ordained. These Norbertine fathers were then either assigned to missions located in Wisconsin and elsewhere in the country or else they stayed in De Pere and became associated with the College as teachers and administrators. Leading this effort was Father Pennings, the Prior of the Order in this country, who was also the president of St. Norbert College and the parish priest of St. Joseph's Parish. In all of these roles he was successful. In 1925, in recognition of his services to the Order, Father Pennings was appointed the first Norbertine Abbot in North America and St. Norbert Priory therefore became St. Norbert Abbey, the first abbey of the Order in North America.<sup>40</sup>

The installation ceremony attending Father Pennings' elevation as the first Abbot of the Norbertine Order in North America was an important event in De Pere's history and it brought forth fulsome praise for the new Abbot from newspapers in the area. It was reported:

The elevation of Rt. Rev. B. H. Pennings as first abbot of the Premonstratensian order marks an epoch in the history of the Catholic Church of America. The priory of St. Norbert was canonically established here in September, 1898, and under the wise and far-seeing leadership of Father Pennings grew steadily in number as well as influence, so that the request of the general

<sup>38</sup> "New Building to Cost \$100,000." *De Pere: Brown County Democrat*, February 4, 1916, p. 1.

<sup>39</sup> The only other institutions of higher learning that existed in the northeast part of the state when St. Norbert College was founded were UW-Oshkosh, which was founded in Oshkosh in 1871 as a teacher-training school, and Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, which was founded in 1849 and which was originally associated with the Methodist Church.

<sup>40</sup> "St. Norbert's Priory Raised to Abbey." *De Pere: Brown County Democrat*, April 23, 1925, Part Two, pp. 1, 16. This article contains a very good history of Pennings and the Order up to that time.

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superior of the order and of the ordinary of the diocese to raise the priory to the rank of an abbey was readily and cheerfully granted. At the same time Father Pennings was elevated to the dignity of abbot in recognition of his valuable services rendered to church and country. Father Pennings has indeed been a father to his flock and has made history for the community, the diocese, and the state.

The city of De Pere has been the beneficiary of the growth of the order here, from a religious as well as from an educational and commercial standpoint. St. Norbert's college, a living monument to the enterprise of Father Pennings and his associates, is a real asset, not only to De Pere, but of the northeastern part of the state, and constitutes a powerful force for good. The atmosphere pervading the college and radiating from the institution makes for morality, character, and good citizenship, and will increase as its prestige expands.<sup>41</sup>

Not surprisingly, this new distinction served to further increase the number of newly ordained members entering the Order. Consequently, in 1926, the Order demolished the original parish rectory building and its 1899 wing that had been the first home of the Order in De Pere. In its place they built a large, new three-story wing that was attached to the remaining three-story wing that had been constructed in 1910 to provide increased living space for the members

With still more students arriving for the 1929 school year, the now much too small 1911 gymnasium building was demolished and in its place the College built a new gymnasium on the shore of the Fox River. It was first known simply as "The Gym"; however, in 1945 it was renamed I. F. Van Dyke Hall after the College's first student, who afterward became a member of the Norbertine Order and a faculty member of the College.

No other new buildings were constructed for the College in the 1930s, but many other changes occurred during this period. Up until 1930, St. Norbert had three distinct departments: a business program, a liberal arts program, and an associated Catholic high school, which was conducted out of the parish school building that, had been built across from St. Joseph Church in 1917.

Most of the St. Norbert College B.A. graduates up to 1930 profited by a foundation gained in its own high school department. This meant a four-year preparation in Latin, two or three years of at least one modern language, two years of Greek, plus the usual required courses in mathematics, science, history, English and related courses. Add four years of courses in religion.<sup>42</sup>

<sup>41</sup> "A Recognition Fully Deserved, Worthily Bestowed." De Pere: *Journal-Democrat*, May 28, 1926, p. 2.

<sup>42</sup> *Legacy of Learning: 100 Years of St. Norbert College, 1898-1998*. De Pere, WI: St. Norbert College, 1998, p. 95.

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In 1930, the decision was made to separate the high school from the College and to place it under a separate administration. Another decision was to add a four-year course leading to a Bachelor of Science degree to the already existing four-year course that led to a Bachelor of Arts degree. By this time, the College had already ceased to be an institution that served only the Catholic population of the northeast region of the state. Despite the fact that the governing Board of Administration of the College was composed entirely of members of the Norbertine Order and members of the Order made up most of the teaching staff, the College was now attracting students of all faiths and was happy to do so. As Father Anselm Keefe, the academic dean of the College wrote in the 1930 College Bulletin:

While the direction of the College and the supervision of the students is Roman Catholic in origin and character, the students of other faiths in increasing numbers are finding at St. Norbert College an opportunity for educational advancement which does no violence to their convictions. For them and their fellow Catholic students the contacts of school life are an invaluable lesson in that mutual respect for the sacredness of another's honest belief which is the ground and bed-rock of American life.<sup>43</sup>

In 1934, the College initiated its first summer session, which was aimed at area teachers seeking credits in the field of education or seeking to complete bachelor degree requirements. This program soon attracted both Sisters teaching in Green Bay Diocese schools and teachers in public schools; summer courses are still offered today. Another important academic milestone for the College was achieved in becoming fully accredited by the National Catholic Educational Association in 1931 and in April of 1937, full accreditation was granted by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Students from St. Norbert had long had their credit transfers accepted by the University of Wisconsin in Madison and by Marquette University in Milwaukee once they had fulfilled their junior college requirements, but full national accreditation finally put St. Norbert College on par with its peers nationwide.

Enrollment continued to climb during the 1930s as well, from 159 in 1930 to 343 in the earliest years of the 1940s, and while many of these students elected to live at home during the Depression years and commute to the College, the College was never-the-less approaching another housing crisis at the start of this decade. As a result, in 1941 the College embarked on the construction of its first building designed solely as a residence hall. To finance the \$300,000 cost of the building a subscription drive was undertaken and by October of 1942 the new building, which could accommodate 150 students, was ready for occupancy.<sup>44</sup> Ironically, the new building, which was first called Residence Hall and later Berne Hall, and still later, Dennis Burke Hall, opened with a greatly reduced campus enrollment since many of the campus students had been drafted or had enlisted in the armed forces. This was

<sup>43</sup> *Legacy of Learning: 100 Years of St. Norbert College, 1898-1998*. De Pere, WI: St. Norbert College, 1998, p. 79.

<sup>44</sup> "College Dedicates New Residence Hall." *De Pere Journal-Democrat*, October 8, 1942, pp. 1, 4.

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more than made up for, however, by various U.S. Army programs that made use of the building throughout World War II. Once the war ended, enrollment skyrocketed and by September of 1947, 841 students, 500 of which were WW II veterans, had enrolled at the College, occupying every possible facility. Enrollment dropped into the 500s during the Korean War, but rose steadily thereafter, reaching 693 by 1956.

Part of the growth the College experienced after World War II was the result of another milestone decision on the part of the College administrators. In 1952 women were admitted as students to the College's regular session for the first time. Initially, only commuting women students were accepted because of the lack of residence halls for women, but this would change in the following decade. Men's enrollment also continued to grow throughout this period and by 1956 the need for another men's residence hall was apparent. The result was a new building housing 180 students that was largely paid for by donations from Neenah, Wisconsin industrialist Frank J. Sensenbrenner, after whom the building is named, and it was another large donation from Sensenbrenner that helped to make possible the College's new Albert Pennington Hall of Fine Arts, which was built the same year and which contained a 900-seat auditorium complete with a full theatrical stage, classrooms for music and theatre, and offices for associated faculty.<sup>45</sup>

During this same period the Norbertine Order was also experiencing growth and in 1959, those members of the Order who were not teachers at the College moved from the old abbey grounds at the College into a magnificent new abbey that was completed in that year on 40 acres of land situated on the east side of De Pere.<sup>46</sup> As a result, the original St. Norbert Abbey, located adjacent to the College was renamed St. Joseph Priory and in 1963, when more modern quarters were needed by members of the Order who were teaching at the College, the old 1910 wing of the Priory was demolished and a new, much larger modern wing was constructed and was attached to the remaining 1926 portion of the Priory.

The year 1963 was also an eventful one on the College campus. In that year, a third men's residence hall was built, Victor McCormick Hall, named for a prominent Green Bay attorney and donor to the College. Of greater importance though, was the construction of the College's first residence halls for women, the twin Lorraine and Madelaine Halls, which were built in 1963 on Reid Street, and which were joined in 1965 by Mary Minahan McCormick Hall and in 1966 by Gertrude S. Bergstrom Hall, both of these also located on Reid Street. Once these new women's residence halls were opened the number of women students on the campus increased dramatically. Total student population reached 1,700 by 1968. Yet another residence hall was built on campus in 1967, this being Dorm IV, which in

<sup>45</sup> Norbertines Will Dedicate New Buildings." *De Pere Journal-Democrat*, May 31, 1956, pp. 1, 8-11.

<sup>46</sup> The Order's new abbey is still the principal house of the Order in the United States today.

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1978 was converted into the much needed Todd Wehr Library. Also built in 1967, was the Dr. John R. Minahan Science Hall, which was replaced by the new Gehl-Mulva Science Center in 2015.

Other changes of lasting significance to the College also occurred during this period. By the late 1960s, the number of women students attending the College was almost equal to that of men and the total number of students was now so large that the number of members of the Order in teaching positions in the College was no longer sufficient to meet College needs. As a result, more and more lay faculty members were hired. Today, Norbertine teachers constitute only a small minority of the College's teaching staff. A similar trend also affected the administration of the College. Up until the 1960s all of the administrative positions in the College had been held by members of the Order and the College's Board of Administration was also made up almost entirely of members of the Order and of the Diocese. By the 1960s, however, running an institution the size of St. Norbert was making heavy demands on the members of the Order, which at that time owned the College as well as administered it. In June of 1966, therefore, the Council of St. Norbert Abbey voted to establish a Board of Trustees for St. Norbert College. "St. Norbert thus became the first Catholic college [in the United States] to be governed by a predominantly lay Board of Trustees."<sup>47</sup> When a new president was finally chosen in 1969 to replace the outgoing Father Dennis Burke, he became the first lay president in the College's history; all subsequent presidents of the College have been laymen chosen from outside the Norbertine Order.

All told, ten major buildings were added to the campus in the 1960s. The next decade, however, saw the College putting a greater emphasis on academic issues and only two buildings were built in this decade: the Schuldes Sports Center and the Todd Wehr Library, the latter was accomplished by remodeling the Dorm IV building that had been built in 1967. In addition, a three-block-long section of Second Street that divided the campus into east and west portions was vacated because the College now owned all the properties on both sides of the street. A donation from board member Lee J. Roemer resulted in this three-block section being remodeled into a pedestrian mall that was subsequently named for Roemer. Following the mall's construction, the now contiguous campus was re-landscaped and an enlarged network of pedestrian paths were put in place to connect the various campus buildings.

In 1981, another change of lasting significance took place when the College was separated legally from the Norbertine Order and the newly created, independent St. Norbert College, Inc. and its Board of Trustees became the new owners of the campus. The Order still plays an important role in the College: its members must constitute 20% of the board's members; members of the Order teach in the

<sup>47</sup> *Legacy of Learning: 100 Years of St. Norbert College, 1898-1998*. De Pere, WI: St. Norbert College, 1998, p. 128. The Abbot and his Council, however, still retained the right to approve the selection of members of the Board of Trustees as well as the College President.

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College; they staff what is now called St. Norbert College Parish; and, until 2016, retired members of the Order were housed in St. Joseph Priory.

Since 1981, the College has gone from strength to strength. Student enrollment has now climbed to 2,200 and the College is consistently ranked as one of the top 10 Catholic liberal arts colleges in the United States by U.S. News & World Report. Today's campus contains forty buildings and the College now owns all of the land from the Claude Allouez Bridge to the north to Stewart Street to the south, all the lands on both sides of Third Street to the west, and to the Fox River to the east, and it owns other lands nearby as well. In addition, the College has raised more than \$100,000,000 from its alumni and other donors in just the last 10 years, which has enabled it to build a number of new buildings on its campus, to remodel and expand others, and to purchase several already existing nearby buildings for reuse for College purposes.<sup>48</sup>

The city of De Pere is, and has always been, justly proud of having St. Norbert College within its boundaries because of the excellent educational opportunities the College provides to city and area families and also because the arts-related and athletic events that it hosts play a large role in the social life of the city. The College's 506 employees make it the Green Bay area's 27<sup>th</sup> largest employer and these employees, along with the College's 2,200-member student body, play an important role in the economic life of De Pere. The Norbertine Order, meanwhile, has also now expanded beyond its original abbey adjacent to the St. Norbert College campus and its existing abbey in east De Pere. Besides serving in numerous parishes in the Green Bay area, members of this abbey, which is the mother house of the Order in the United States, also now oversee dependent priories and daughter abbeys in Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Mexico, and Mississippi, and even a mission in Peru. Those members of the Order who are associated with St. Norbert Abbey in De Pere are just some of the 1,300 members of the Norbertine Order worldwide, many of whom are teachers in the 24 countries around the world that the Order also serves. St. Norbert College in De Pere continues to be the only college in the world that was founded and operated by the Order, just as it was when Father Pennings taught his first group of students in 1898. The College he created in De Pere is a source of great pride to the Roman Catholic Church in Wisconsin and in the United States.

**Architecture**

The St. Norbert College Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture as an intact collection of architecturally prominent college buildings. Constructed between 1890 and 1963, these buildings

<sup>48</sup> These buildings include the former St. Boniface R.C. Church and its rectory, convent, and school buildings, and also the former Nicolet High School Building, which is now the Pennings Activity Center and which is individually listed in the NRHP (10/5/2015).



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constitute the historic core of the campus of St. Norbert College. These buildings comprise a readily identifiable entity today despite being surrounded on three sides by the greatly expanded campus of the College.<sup>49</sup> Individually, these buildings are very fine, highly intact, brick-clad examples of the High Victorian Gothic Revival, Richardsonian Romanesque Revival, Tudor Revival, Neo-Classical Revival, and Contemporary styles that are each the finest examples of these particular styles in De Pere. In addition, four of the five earliest buildings in the district were designed by prominent Green Bay architect William E. Reynolds, while the three newest were designed by Berners, Schober and Kilp, another prominent Green Bay architectural firm. Collectively, these buildings are of architectural significance because they represent almost the entire built history of the College as it existed up until 1956, when Frank J. Sensenbrenner Hall was built, and they therefore reflect the evolution in architectural styles that took place during this same period and the evolution of the differing resource types that the college required as it grew.

When St. Norbert College was founded in 1898, the College consisted of a single room in a former parish school building that was part of a complex that also included the parish church and an adjacent parish rectory building, and these three buildings were located in the midst of a large residential neighborhood that was bounded by the Fox River on the north and east, by the north-south-running Third Street on the west, and by the east-west-running Stewart Street on the south. Indeed, a plat map of De Pere published in 1889 shows that even by that date all of the land within these boundaries had already been platted and had been subdivided into 13 city blocks that were bounded by the irregular west bank of the Fox River to the east and north, by the north-south-running Third and Second streets, and by the east-west-running Oneida (now Reid), Grant, Butler, Miller, Maple, and Stewart streets, and the same map also shows that by that time most of the lots in these plats had been built upon and were occupied by single family residences.<sup>50</sup>

Today, all of the land contained within these boundaries is owned by St. Norbert College and it constitutes most of the College's campus. In order to achieve this, the College embarked on an almost continuous process of acquiring additional lands on which to build the new buildings its ever expanding student body required, a process that took decades of effort to accomplish. New land was acquired by the College as funds permitted and once it had been purchased, any existing buildings that were located on it were then either demolished, sold and moved off site, or else they were sometimes reused by the College for various College purposes such as housing or office space until such time as they were no longer needed. Eventually, all of the buildings that once occupied the lots in this

<sup>49</sup> The Period of Significance for Architecture spans the years between 1890, when the oldest contributing building in the district was built, and 1963, when the newest one was constructed.

<sup>50</sup> *Plat Book of Brown County, Wisconsin*. Minneapolis: C. M. Foote & Co., 1889. Reading from north to south, these plats were: the Original Plat of West De Pere; Dousman's Addition; Lessey's Addition; Millar's Addition; and Armstrong's Addition.

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neighborhood were either moved elsewhere or demolished, Second Street and those portions of Butler, Millar, and Marsh streets lying to the east of Third Street were all vacated, and the College buildings that we see today took their place.

The oldest building in the district is St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, a fine brick and stone-clad High Victorian Gothic style building that was begun in 1889 by De Pere builder Joseph LeClair and completed in the following year as a replacement for the original frame Gothic Revival style church on the same site that had been built in 1870, but which was destroyed by a fire earlier in 1889.<sup>51</sup> The High Victorian Gothic Style St. Joseph Church we see today, though, achieved much of its present appearance in 1926, when the original 1890 Gothic Revival Style church's brick-clad exterior was enriched by the addition of new decorative stone trim that was part of a church remodeling project that was designed by Green Bay architect William E. Reynolds. The more elaborate church that resulted still serves as St. Norbert College's campus church today and despite the 1926 alterations it is still the most intact of De Pere's three surviving historic Gothic Revival churches and the only one that is still used for religious purposes.<sup>52</sup>

The main façade of St. Joseph Church faces north onto Grant Street and it was originally a parish church serving a French-speaking congregation that was predominately of French-Canadian and Belgian origin. During this period, the church was flanked to the east by a small, Second Empire style brick-clad parish rectory (demolished) that faced north onto Grant Street, while to the south of the church was a Front Gable Vernacular form, two-story, brick-clad parish school built in 1888 (demolished), that faced south onto Butler Street. All three of these buildings were situated on land that constituted the east half of a block that was bounded by the Fox River to the east, Grant Street to the north, Second Street to the west, and Butler Street to the south, and this block was surrounded by other blocks that were part of what was then still a predominately residential neighborhood.

In 1898, the church, its associated buildings, and adjacent vacant land to the east that belonged to the Green Bay Diocese, were transferred to the Norbertine Order of the Roman Catholic Church. One year later, a new, no longer extant Second Empire Style, two-and-one-half-story-tall, brick-clad wing was attached to the already existing former Second Empire Style brick-clad parish rectory building that now housed the Norbertine fathers. The expanded building was renamed St. Norbert Priory (aka St. Norbert Convent) and it housed the Norbertine fathers themselves, the classrooms of the new St. Norbert College, which had been established by the Order in 1898, and also the living quarters for boarding students attending the College. This new building housed the College until 1903, when Main Hall, the first campus building constructed solely for college purposes, was completed.

<sup>51</sup> "The New St. Joseph's Church." *De Pere News*. September 21, 1889, p. 1

<sup>52</sup> Ironically, the other two historic Gothic Revival churches in De Pere, the former St. Boniface R.C. Church (1883) located at 402 Grant St. and the former First Baptist Church (1874) located at 309 Grant St., are also now both owned by St. Norbert College and they have been converted to other usages.

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St. Norbert's new Main Hall was a superb, still highly intact Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style 3½-story-tall building that was designed by William E. Reynolds and it was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places, October 28, 1988. This building is located south and west of St. Joseph Church and it sits in the middle of what was originally Butler Street. This site was made possible by the fact that between 1898 and 1901 the College managed to purchase all of the lots on both sides of Butler Street between Seventh Street and the Fox River that it did not already own. As a result, the College was able to have this portion of Butler Street vacated, thereby creating a proper setting for its new Main Hall building. As was typical of many of the earliest buildings constructed on Wisconsin's other early college and university campuses, Main Hall was built as a multi-purpose building that initially contained virtually all of the functions of the College. The basement contained a kitchen and dining area, a recreation room and a reading room. The first story contained classrooms, a study hall and a library, the second story contained a dormitory area and six private rooms, and the third story contained student lockers and an auditorium. In the following decades, Main Hall underwent a number of internal alterations as its original functions were transferred to newer campus buildings. Today, the building houses the administrative offices of the College. Even so, the exterior of the building is essentially unaltered and it is a fine, though quite late example of the Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style, a style that does not appear to have been especially popular in Brown County communities. Only one other Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style building was ever built in De Pere, the Congregational Church at 819 Reid Street (demolished). Even in the much larger neighboring city of Green Bay, examples of this style were very rare.<sup>53</sup> Today, Main Hall is the only surviving example of this style in either city. Fortunately, it is an excellent one.

Once Main Hall was completed, the building complex owned by the Norbertine Order in West De Pere consisted of buildings associated solely with the College (Main Hall), with the Order (the Priory), and with St. Joseph's Parish (the school), with St. Joseph Church serving all three. As the college enrollment grew, however, some of the existing buildings located on the College's newly acquired lots were put into service for College purposes. One of these was the former boat building workshop owned by Dan Kidney that was located on the south side of Butler St. In 1905, the College moved this frame building further east and turned it into a gymnasium, and when this building burned in 1909 it was replaced by a new one located on land the College owned on Millar Street. When this second gymnasium burned in 1911, it too was replaced, this time by a new Astylistic Utilitarian Style brick and concrete building that served the College until 1930 (now demolished).<sup>54</sup> Still other newly acquired houses served the College in various

<sup>53</sup> Ironically again, the Congregational Church was later purchased by St. Norbert College and served for some years as the music building for Abbot Pennings High School (the former Nicolet High School, now listed in the NRHP and part of the St. Norbert Campus) before it was demolished to make way for new campus buildings.

<sup>54</sup> *Legacy of Learning: 100 Years of St. Norbert College, 1898-1998*. De Pere, WI: St. Norbert College, 1998, p. 47 (illustrated).

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capacities until they were no longer needed.

The next additions to the College campus were built in 1917, when the fine Neo-Classical Revival style 3½-story Francis Boyle Hall and the Neo-Classical Style-inspired heating plant building were constructed to the west and the south of St. Joseph Church, respectively, and to the north and east of Main Hall. Both of these new buildings were also designed by William E. Reynolds and they are ample evidence that Reynolds was not only well aware of the changes in architectural styles that had occurred since his first campus building was built, but was also completely comfortable designing buildings in the newer styles. Francis H. Boyle Hall was constructed on four lots the Order had purchased in 1913 on the south side of Grant Street. These lots were located immediately to the west of St. Joseph Church and an article in the local newspaper commenting on the new building gives a good account of the process the College went through as this and future campus buildings were constructed:

The plans call for a building 67x180 feet, three stories above the grade line. It will be a brick building of fireproof construction throughout. It will be modern in every detail. The building will be erected on the corner of Grant and Second streets, facing Grant.

The small dwelling houses on Grant street in the St. Norbert's college block, are to be moved immediately from their present location to make way for the new college building. The Ritchie house is at present being moved back upon the grounds, and will be used temporarily by the college until the new building is completed. Another is being moved near the gymnasium on Millar street, to be used as an infirmary. F. Cuene is doing the moving. Two others will be sold at auction next Monday morning, and the purchaser will be required to move them as soon as possible.

The brick house on the northeast corner of Grant and Second streets formerly owned by Thos. Jackson, Sr., is being remodeled by contractor Albert Beauregard to be occupied by the Sisters of St. Joseph. The Norbertine fathers have bought the Clare Zimdars house on Grant Street, and it is now occupied by Albert Zeiten and family, the janitor of the college. As soon as the remaining houses are moved work on the new building will be started in order that the foundation may be completed before winter sets in.<sup>55</sup>

While considerably larger than Main Hall, the new Francis H. Boyle Hall was designed to fulfill multiple campus needs. The first, or basement, level story had a reading room, a library, an office, a large recreation room, cloak rooms, and other rooms. The second story had eight classrooms and two dormitory rooms, the third story had a two-story-tall study room and two large dormitory rooms, and the fourth story

<sup>55</sup> "Start Work on New College." De Pere: *Brown County Democrat*, September 24, 1915, p. 1. The building also has a full raised basement story as well that is placed above grade.

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was completely given over to sleeping quarters, save for the space allotted to the second story of the third story's study room. The completed Neo-Classical style building is an excellent example of what by 1917 was a favorite architectural style for large public buildings in Wisconsin and it was accompanied by a more utilitarian building designed in the same style by Reynolds, the campus heating plant, a separate building that is located nearby and just to the south of St. Joseph Church.

In addition to Boyle Hall and its associated heating plant, another Neo-Classical style building was built by the Green Bay Diocese directly across Grant Street from Boyle Hall in 1917. This was a new elementary school building for St. Joseph Parish, which was built as a replacement for the parish's old 1888 school, which was demolished so that its site could be reused as the site of the new campus heating plant building. The new school was rectangular in plan and three stories tall, it was clad in brick trimmed with stone, and it too was also designed by William E. Reynolds. The new school served the parish as both an elementary school and later as a high school until a new parish school was erected elsewhere in De Pere in 1961. The 1917 parish school was purchased by St. Norbert College, which renamed it St. Joseph Hall, and the building was remodeled for the College's art department. It was demolished in 2013 to make way for the College's new Gehl-Mulva Science Center.

No new buildings would be built for the College until 1930, but in the meantime, the Norbertine Order's own numbers were growing and the Order was in need of expanded accommodations. In addition, Father Bernard Pennings, the founder of the Norbertine Order in the United States and the Prior of the Order, was appointed the first Norbertine Abbot in either North or South America in 1925, in recognition of his services to the Order, which meant that the existing St. Norbert Priory then became St. Norbert Abbey. This new distinction served to increase the number of new novitiates. As a result, the Order demolished the original parish rectory building and its 1899 wing in 1926 and in its place a new three-story Neo-Classical Revival style brick-clad wing was built that was attached to the existing 1910, three-story wing. This new wing was designed by William E. Reynolds, who was also remodeling St. Joseph Church in that same year, and the building that resulted served as the living quarters and social center of the Order until a new Abbey was built in east De Pere in 1959. The 1910/1926 Abbey building was then renamed St. Norbert Priory once again and it continued to be used as living quarters by the Order. In 1963, however, the Priory's 1910 wing was demolished and a new, much larger three-story Contemporary style wing designed by the Green Bay firm of Berners, Schober, and Kilp replaced it.

Enrollment at the College continued to increase throughout the 1920s and by 1929 had reached record numbers, which put pressure on all campus facilities especially the College's existing gymnasium. As a result, late in 1929 the College announced that it was going to begin construction of a new, much larger gymnasium building on the campus designed by William E. Reynolds of Green Bay.

The White Fathers are now owners of two blocks of real estate between Grant Street on the North,

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Second Street on the West, Miller [sic] Street on the South and Fox River on the East. The new gymnasium will be erected on the Southeast corner, on the bank of the Fox, but will be set far enough back from the river to permit of the future installation of a swimming pool and boat houses in connection with the present building. The Northeast corner of the site is occupied by the abbey, the Northwest corner by Boyle Hall, the Southeast corner will be occupied by the new gymnasium and plans are being made for the erection of a residence hall on the Southwest corner in the near future, while the original building, now main hall, occupies a place in the center.<sup>56</sup>

The new Tudor Revival style brick-clad gymnasium building was completed on its river bank site in December of 1930 and at first it was just called "The Gym." In 1945, however, it was renamed I. F. Van Dyke Hall after the College's first student, who afterward became a member of the Norbertine Order and a faculty member of the College. Still later, in 2000, the building was renamed the Ray Van Den Heuvel Family Campus Center to honor the major donor who made a large, harmonious, Contemporary Style addition to the building that was completed in that year possible.

The College was fortunate to finish its new gym at the very beginning of the Great Depression; no new buildings were built on the campus until the start of World War II, by which time the College's ever increasing student population was living not just in the College's existing buildings, but also in College-owned houses and in rented houses scattered throughout the surrounding neighborhood. By 1941, the need for a new purpose-built dormitory building had become acute and the College responded by commissioning the newly formed Green Bay architectural firm of Fuldhusen & Coughlen to design its new building. The firm's response was a four-story, brick-clad building housing 150 students that is the finest Neo-Classical Revival style building in De Pere and also the first building that the College had ever built that was used exclusively for student housing. The new building, known at first as Residence Hall, was dedicated in September of 1942 and it sits on a riverfront site located between Marsh and Millar streets that is just south of the Ray Van Den Heuvel Family Campus Center. In order to acquire this site the College first purchased five existing houses, some of which occupied as many as three lots, and moved three of them to other lots purchased as part of an exchange. The other two houses remained in place after the dormitory was finished and they continued to be used by the College for some years afterwards but are no longer extant. In 1954, the new dormitory was named Berne Hall after the Norbertine Order's mother house in the Netherlands, but in 1979 it was renamed Dennis M. Burke Hall after the second president of the College.

Thus, by 1942, St. Norbert College's campus consisted of four buildings; Main Hall, Boyle Hall, I. F. Van Dyke Hall, and Burke Hall. The campus grounds also abutted the grounds associated with St. Joseph Church and St. Norbert Abbey. By this time, the campus grounds had been landscaped and planted with

<sup>56</sup> "Ground Broken for Collage Gymnasium." *De Pere Journal-Democrat*, November 14, 1929, p. 1. The "White Fathers" is a reference to the white cassocks that members of the Norbertine Order wear.

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grass, simple linear paths connected the various buildings, and the whole ensemble now looked like the typical college campus that it was. Nevertheless, this was still a small campus that occupied just three contiguous city blocks, the campus then faced onto Second Street, and an aerial photo of the campus taken in 1943 shows that at that date the campus was still surrounded by the larger residential neighborhood that it was in the process of transforming.<sup>57</sup>

Between 1942 and 1956, only one more building was added to the campus and this was a temporary one. The College had long been in need of a separate science building and out of necessity it had even held some of its science classes in the private houses it had acquired over the years. In 1947, though, a number of war surplus buildings on U.S. Armed Forces bases became available for purchase and as a result the College acquired several from Camp McCoy, located in Monroe County, and had them reassembled into a single building on the campus. This building was located just behind St. Joseph Church and St. Norbert Abbey and it continued to be used for science instruction until a new science building (Dr. John R. Minahan Science Hall) was built in 1967; the temporary building was demolished in 1980.<sup>58</sup>

The continued growth of the College's student body continued to drive new construction and resulted in a new era of construction on the campus that is still underway even today. The first of the new buildings on campus in the 1950s and 1960s was Frank J. Sensenbrenner Hall, which was the second residence hall built on the campus. This new three-story, L-plan building was constructed in 1956 just to the west of Dennis M. Burke Hall and it housed 180 students and was the first building on the campus to be designed by the Green Bay architectural firm of Berners, Schober & Kilp. Sensenbrenner Hall was also the first building on the campus to be designed in Contemporary Style, although its classically derived entrance doors and their stone surrounds still linked the building to its Neo-Classical style-designed predecessors, and it is still in use as a residence hall today and it is highly intact and included within the St. Norbert College Historic District, as are all of the College's earlier buildings.

Sensenbrenner Hall is located to the east of what was originally Second Street (now Lee J. Roemer Mall), as are all of the campus's earlier buildings. By 1956, though, the College had begun to expand to the west of Second Street as well. In that same year the College also constructed its new Contemporary style Abbot Pennings Hall of Fine Arts on lots it had acquired on the west side of Second Street that faced toward Main Hall. This building, which housed an auditorium and music and theatre classrooms, was designed by Berners, Schober & Kilp and in 1961 the same firm also designed the Contemporary style Frank J. and Margaret Sensenbrenner Memorial Union building, located next door to the Abbot Pennings

<sup>57</sup> *Legacy of Learning: 100 Years of St. Norbert College, 1898-1998*. De Pere, WI: St. Norbert College, 1998, p. 83 (illustrated).

<sup>58</sup> Pieters, Donald L. *Buildings and Memorials: Millennium 2000*. De Pere: St. Norbert College, 2000, p. 51 (illustrated). The Dr. John R. Minahan Science Hall was itself demolished in 2013 to make way for the College's new Gehl-Mulva Science Center, which was completed in 2015.

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Hall Building on the west side of Second Street.<sup>59</sup>

In 1963, Berners, Schober & Kilp designed two more projects on the campus that are also contributing resources within the St. Norbert College Historic District. The first of these was a large, new three-story Contemporary style wing that was added to the St. Norbert Priory building. In order for this wing to be built the Priory's existing 1913 wing was demolished and the new wing put in its place. The remodeled building served as the home of the college priest and faculty members belonging to the Order until 2015, by which time the building housed only a few retired members. The building has now been sold to St. Norbert College, which plans to repurpose the building as living units for students.<sup>60</sup>

The second contributing building built on the campus in 1963 and designed by Berners, Schober & Kilp was the Contemporary style Victor McCormick Hall, a residential hall constructed around a courtyard and with a capacity of 232 students who were housed in 57 four bed and bath suites. This highly intact building is still in use as a residence hall and is located opposite Frank J. Sensenbrenner Hall on the west side of Lee J. Roemer Mall. McCormick Hall was the first residential hall to be located on the west side of this street.<sup>61</sup>

These two buildings were not the only ones built on the campus in 1963. In the same year, Berners, Schober & Kilp designed the twin three-story Contemporary style Bernarrine and Madelaine Halls on the north side of Reid Street as well, these being the first residence halls on the campus built especially for the College's women students. Two years later the same firm designed another residence hall for women further east on the north side of Reid Street, this being the six-story-tall Contemporary Style Mary Minahan McCormick Hall, and this was followed in 1966 by yet another residence hall for women designed by the same firm, the Contemporary style three-story Gertrude Bergstrom Hall, located on the north side of Reid Street in between the two previous buildings.<sup>62</sup> The firm's last 1960s era campus building was the Dr. John R. Minahan Science Hall, a large Contemporary style four-story building located on the east side of Reid Street and north of St. Joseph Church and St. Norbert Priory. It was completed in 1967 and served the College until 2013, when it was demolished and replaced by the new and larger Contemporary style Gehl-Mulva Science Center.

Since the end of the 1960s, St. Norbert College has built 15 more Contemporary style buildings on its

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<sup>59</sup> Both Abbot Pennings Hall of Fine Arts and the Frank J. and Margaret Sensenbrenner Memorial Union are still in use today but both have been greatly enlarged and altered by later additions and they do not have sufficient integrity to be included within the St. Norbert College Historic District.

<sup>60</sup> Pieters, Donald L. *St. Norbert College Buildings Centennial Edition*. De Pere: St. Norbert College, 1998, pp. 26-7.

<sup>61</sup> Pieters, Donald L. *St. Norbert College Buildings Centennial Edition*. De Pere: St. Norbert College, 1998, pp. 24 and 33. Lee J. Roemer Mall is a pedestrian mall that was built on the campus in 1974 and it replaced the by then vacated Second Street.

<sup>62</sup> Pieters, Donald L. *St. Norbert College Buildings Centennial Edition*. De Pere: St. Norbert College, 1998, pp. 25, 28-9.



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campus, it has greatly expanded its Abbot Pennings Hall of Fine Arts building and its Frank J. and Margaret Sensenbrenner Memorial Union building, and it has also purchased the former Nicolet High School building, the former St. Boniface Church building and its associated St. Boniface Grade School building, and other buildings, and has repurposed them for College use. Today, the St. Norbert College campus extends from Main Avenue to the north to Stewart Street to the south and it is bounded by the Fox River to the east and by both sides of Third Street to the west. In order for this to happen the College first had to purchase 114 lots and 14 homes between 1937 and 1977 for College development purposes and still more lots and buildings have been purchased since then. Today, all but one of the houses and other buildings that occupied these lots has been removed and the resulting campus is now populated solely by the various buildings of the College which are set in beautifully landscaped grounds.

Architects

William E. Reynolds

William E. Reynolds (1856-1933) was born in Rochester, New York. He came to Wisconsin at the age of three and he was reared in Dodge County.<sup>63</sup> Nothing is known about Reynolds's professional education, but he first appeared in the Green Bay City Directories in 1896-1897, where he is listed as an architect having his office in his home. The next directory lists him as a carpenter contractor but all succeeding directories list him as an architect up until the time of his death. Much of Reynolds's work was undoubtedly located in Green Bay but only a few of these buildings have as yet been identified, including St. Mary's of the Angels Roman Catholic Church and Convent (1901) and the L. Gotfredson Warehouse (1916). In addition, Reynolds designed the St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church Convent in Wrightstown, Door County; Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church in Bay Settlement, Brown County; and the Bishop's Residence, and the St. Matthews Roman Catholic School building (1925), both in Allouez, Brown County.<sup>64</sup> Today, his best known works are those he designed for the St. Norbert College campus in De Pere.<sup>65</sup> The earliest of these is the Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style Main Hall, begun in 1901 and completed in 1903, which would suggest that Reynolds's reputation and training must have been impressive to garner such a commission so soon after arriving in Green Bay. Reynolds's subsequent projects for the College continued up until just three years before his death in 1933. He had completed all four of the buildings built specifically for campus purposes up until that

<sup>63</sup> *Green Bay Press-Gazette*. June 3, 1933, p. 1. Obituary of William E. Reynolds.

<sup>64</sup> "St. Matthews Dedication Saturday." *De Pere Journal*, May 25, 1925, p. 16.

<sup>65</sup> In addition to the St. Norbert College buildings Reynolds also designed the Edwin and Jennie Gutknecht House in De Pere in 1913, and the Irwin School in De Pere in 1924, both of which are listed in the NRHP, and he also designed the rectory of St. Boniface R.C. Church in De Pere in 1916, which is located on Grant Street next to St. Boniface R.C. Church, both of which are now owned and used by St. Norbert College. See: *Brown County Democrat*, June 2, 1916, p. 1, for information about the St. Boniface Church Rectory.

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time, the first portion of St. Norbert Priory, and also the now demolished elementary school building (built in 1915 across Grant Street from St. Joseph Church). Reynolds also designed all the buildings that were originally associated with Camp Tivoli, a boy's summer camp located on Shawano Lake in Shawano County, Wisconsin, and operated by St. Norbert College from the time it opened in 1925 until it closed in 1981.<sup>66</sup>

Feldhausen and Coughlen

The Green Bay firm of Feldhausen and Coughlen was formed in 1941 with Gordon J. Feldhausen, Sr. and Gardner C. Coughlen as principals. Gordon J. Feldhausen, Sr. (1896-1955) was born in Green Bay in 1896 and he was educated in the public schools of that city. Feldhausen's father, Nicolas Feldhausen, was a successful general contractor in Green Bay and Feldhausen got his first taste of building construction working for him at various times early in his career. Feldhausen's real love, though, was architecture and in 1915 he got employment in the architectural offices of William E. Reynolds in Green Bay, where he helped prepare the plans for Francis M. Boyle Hall on the St. Norbert College campus. The following year, Feldhausen spent working for his father, but in 1917 he returned to Reynolds' office and he worked there until early 1920. Later in 1920, Feldhausen worked for the Green Bay architectural firm of Foeller & Schuber, but for the next four years, from 1921 and 1924, he worked with his father in the construction business. During this same period, Feldhausen also undertook a course in structural engineering through the University of Wisconsin Extension program that was supplemented by private tutoring from professors associated with St. Norbert College. In 1924, Feldhausen left his father's employ and went to work in the architectural offices of Harry Carr in Green Bay and finally, in 1926, he opened his own architectural office in that city. From 1926 until 1941, Feldhausen designed a wide variety of buildings in and around Green Bay, including a large stadium structure for St. Norbert College built in 1937 on College-owned land located a few blocks southwest of the College.<sup>67</sup> In 1941, Feldhausen associated with Gardner C. Coughlen in a new firm based in Green Bay called Feldhausen and Coughlen.

Gardner C. Coughlen (1887-1953) was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1887, the son of Harry G. and Bertha W. Coughlen. After finishing his secondary schooling Coughlen enrolled in the Illinois School of Architecture, from which he graduated, and from the 1910s through the 1920s he practiced architecture in Chicago, where he sometimes had his own firm and sometimes was employed by

<sup>66</sup> "St. Norbert's Summer Camp Named Tivoli." *De Pere Journal-Democrat*, April 30, 1925, p. 1. See also: "Boy's Camp on Shawano Lake Scene of Bustle and Action." *De Pere Journal-Democrat*, July 16, 1925, p. 11 (illustrated). The Camp Tivoli buildings designed by Reynolds have now been demolished.

<sup>67</sup> Pieters, Donald L. *St. Norbert College Buildings Centennial Edition*. De Pere: St. Norbert College, 1998, pp. 10-11. This stadium has now been demolished and has been replaced by a much larger modern stadium and sports complex belonging to the College.

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others, including Weary & Alford, a noted Chicago firm that specialized in the design of banks and office buildings.<sup>68</sup> In addition, Coughlen acted as the executive secretary of The American Specifications Institute in Chicago while he was with Weary & Alford and he was a member of the A.I.A. from 1922 to 1930. Nothing has been found out about his life in the 1930s, but in 1941 he moved to Green Bay with his wife and children and entered into a partnership with Gordon J. Feldhausen, Sr. The new firm's first project was the Neo-Classical style Dennis M. Burke Hall on the St. Norbert campus, the design of which was completed in June of 1941, and the building itself in 1942.<sup>69</sup> The firm continued to design buildings in the war years that followed, most of them being in Green Bay, including the Mallore Funeral Home (AHI# 212161). In 1946, the partnership was dissolved and the partners went their separate ways. Gardner C. Coughlen died in Green Bay in 1953.<sup>70</sup> Gordon J. Feldhausen, Sr. meanwhile, went into partnership with his son, Gordon J. Feldhausen, Jr., in 1950, and they were still in practice together in Green Bay in 1955 when Feldhausen, Sr. died.<sup>71</sup>

**Berners, Schober & Kilp**

Just as William E. Reynolds dominated the building activity at St. Norbert College during his lifetime, so too did the Green Bay firm of Berners, Schober & Kilp in the first three decades after World War II. Berners, Schober & Kilp evolved from the firm of Foeller, Schober & Stephenson, which had become one of the most important architectural firms in northeastern Wisconsin since its founding in Green Bay in 1895. The founding partner was Henry A. Foeller (1841-1938) who was born in the French province of Alsace in 1871, the 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 (1843-1927), 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 1906, when he formed a partnership with Max W. Schober (1880-1965), a Green Bay native and graduate of the University of Illinois' special course in architecture, who had begun his career as a draughtsman in Foeller's office. The new firm, Foeller & Schober, soon became the most important one in Green Bay,

<sup>68</sup> While with Weary and Alford, Coughlen designed, among other things, the Noel State Bank Building in Chicago in 1919, and the Peoples Bank & Trust Co. Building in Marietta, OH, the People's Bank & Trust Co. Building in West Frankfurt, IL, and a bank and office building for the Woodlawn National Bank in Chicago, all in 1920.

<sup>69</sup> "New Residence Hall on St. Norbert Campus to Be Dedicated Next Monday." *De Pere Journal-Democrat*, October 1, 1942, p. 1 (illustrated).

<sup>70</sup> "Gardner Coughlen Dies at Home Here" *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, October 29, 1953, p. 12. Obituary of Gardner C. Coughlen.

<sup>71</sup> "Architect Dies Tuesday Night." *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, November 15, 1955. Obituary of Gordon Feldhausen, Sr. See also: Koyl, George S. (ed.) *American Architects Directory*. New York: R. R. Bowker Co., 1956, p. 167.

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a position it continued to maintain long after the death of the original partners.

A major reason for this success was the skill that the firm showed in attracting new architects 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, (1898-1992), who was born in Port Washington, Wisconsin, and raised and educated in that community. Berners subsequently graduated from the University of Illinois department of architecture in 1921 and became an engineer. In 1925, Berners came to Green Bay, where he was promptly employed in the offices of Foeller & Schober, and in 1928 he was made a partner in the firm, which was renamed Foeller, Schober & Berners. Berners eventually also became certified as an architect and was later honored by being named a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, as was Henry A. Foeller before him. Later, other partners would also join the firm, including Paul A. Kilp (1910-2001) who was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin in 1910, received a degree in architecture from the University of Minnesota in 1934, and joined Berners & Schober in 1962.<sup>72</sup>

Not surprisingly, given its close proximity to De Pere, this firm designed more buildings in De Pere than any other known firm between 1904 and the present, and most of them are 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, including the De Pere Public Library located at 300 Main Avenue, which was built in 1937 and is listed in the NRHP (NRIS# 02001106), as is the firm's Nicolet High School, which was built in 1923 and is now owned by St. Norbert College, which operates it as the Pennings Activity Center.

The first building on the St. Norbert College campus designed by Berners, Schober & Kilp was the Frank J. Sensenbrenner Hall, a men's dormitory built in 1956 and which is included within the St. Norbert College Historic District. Also included within the District is Victor McCormick Hall, built in 1963, as is the firm's 1963 wing for St. Joseph Priory. These are not the only campus buildings designed by this firm; however, there are eight more buildings on the campus designed by this firm that are outside the district.<sup>73</sup>

New projects are still being created today by the successor firm Berners-Schober Associates, Inc. It is now one of the oldest, if not *the* oldest, continuously operating architectural firms in Wisconsin.

<sup>72</sup> Koyl, George S. (ed.) *American Architects Directory*. New York: R. R. Bowker Co., 1970, p. 488.

<sup>73</sup> These buildings include: Abbot Pennings Hall of Fine Arts (1956); Frank J. & Margaret Sensenbrenner Memorial Union (1961); Lorraine and Madeline Halls (1963); Mary Minahan McCormick Hall (1965); Gertrude S. Bergstrom Hall (1966); Dr. John R. Minahan Science Hall (built in 1967 and demolished in 2013); Todd Wehr Library (1978); and the Schuldes Sports Center (1979).

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Builder

Joseph LeClair

Joseph LeClair (1838-?) was one of the more active contractors in De Pere in the 1880s but little is known about his personal history. LeClair was born in Canada in 1838 and he eventually made his way to De Pere. The 1880 U.S. Census records show that he was then employed as a carpenter and that he was single and was living in De Pere at that time with other members of his family. Still, while personal information about LeClair is lacking, a number of the buildings he constructed have been identified and are extant, including St. Joseph Church on the St. Norbert College campus. The following list of extant buildings that he built was compiled from contemporary De Pere newspapers.

102 N. Michigan St.	W. P. Call House	1886 <sup>74</sup>
521 N. Michigan St.	Joseph LeClair Residence	1887 <sup>75</sup>
112-18 N. Broadway	Steckart & Falck Double Block	1888 <sup>76</sup>
123 Grant St.	St. Joseph R. C. Church	1890 <sup>77</sup>

In addition, LeClair also built the following buildings (locations unknown).

- Henry Collette House, Main Ave. (west side).<sup>78</sup>
- Captain Johann House (west side).<sup>79</sup>
- J. H. Scott House (west side, opp. the French R. C. Church).<sup>80</sup>

Of these, St. Joseph Church and the Steckart and Falck Double Block are by far the most impressive. They are both evidence that LeClair was a highly competent builder and also, perhaps, designer, who was entrusted with the construction of several of De Pere's most important 1880s era buildings.

<sup>74</sup> *De Pere News*. October 9, 1886, p. 1., November 6, 1886, p. 1.

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid.* September ?, 1887, p. 1.

<sup>76</sup> "Two Fine New Buildings." *De Pere News*. May 26, 1888, p. 1. The Steckart & Falck Building is individually listed in the NRHP.

<sup>77</sup> "The New St. Joseph's Church." *De Pere News*. September 21, 1889, p. 1.

<sup>78</sup> *De Pere News*. October 31, 1885, p. 1.

<sup>79</sup> *De Pere News*. May 19, 1888, p. 1.

<sup>80</sup> *De Pere News*. May 19, 1888, p. 1. The "French Church" was the original St. Joseph R.C. Church, its nickname came from the language spoken by its mostly French-Canadian and Belgian parishioners, and it occupied the same Grant Street site as the present St. Joseph Church.

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*Summary of Significance, Criterion C*

The St. Norbert College Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level for its architectural significance. Despite the great changes that have transformed the College since the end of World War II, the St. Norbert College Historic District is still very much the intact historic core of the College today. Individually, many of the buildings within the district are of particular significance, both because of their design and because of their associations with the architects who designed them. The High Victorian Gothic style St. Joseph Church built by Joseph LeClair and afterwards enriched by William E. Reynolds is now the finest remaining example of the Gothic Revival style in De Pere. In addition, the individual buildings in the district that were designed by William E. Reynolds are of considerable architectural significance, both as individual designs and as his best known work. Reynolds' Main Hall was the best and is now the only extant example of the Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style in De Pere, his Francis H. Boyle Hall, along with Feldhausen and Coughlen's Dennis M. Burke Hall are the finest examples of Neo-Classical Revival design in De Pere, and Reynolds' design for the original portion of St. Joseph Priory is also a good representative example of this style. In addition, the three Contemporary style buildings in the district designed by the Green Bay firm of Berners, Schober & Lipp are all fine representative examples of the post-war period work of this important regional firm. Adding to the significance of these buildings is their generally high degree of integrity and the uniformity that has been achieved even within the context of differing styles by the utilization of brick with stone trim for all of the buildings in the district.

The district's buildings are also of architectural significance, because they are excellent representative examples of the differing types of historic buildings that were built on other college campuses located in Wisconsin and elsewhere. Typically, the first building to be constructed on a college or university campus in Wisconsin in the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries was a single multi-purpose building that contained all or most of the functions of the college. For instance, the first buildings to be constructed on all of the University of Wisconsin System's older campuses such as Bascom Hall (UW-Madison), Schofield Hall (aka: Old Main) (UW-Eau Claire), Graff Main Hall (UW-La Crosse), Old Main (UW-Stevens Point), and Bowman Hall (UW-Stout), were all multi-purpose buildings, as was Main Hall on the Lawrence University campus in Appleton and Main Hall on the Beloit College campus in Beloit.<sup>81</sup> Main Hall on the St. Norbert College campus is an excellent example of this type of building and when Francis H. Boyle Hall was built on the same campus in 1917, it too was another multi-purpose building that was intended to address the overcrowding problems that increased enrollments had created on the campus. Gradually, as the St. Norbert campus continued to expand, new single purpose buildings such as dormitories and gymnasiums were constructed, and this too is a trend that was followed on all the others

<sup>81</sup> All of these buildings are listed in the NRHP.

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campuses listed above and it is one that continues today on both St. Norbert's campus and on the other campuses.

*Summary of Significance, Criterion A*

The St. Norbert College Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Education at the local level of significance for its association with the important role in the educational history of the Roman Catholic Church in both the city of De Pere and in the surrounding Green Bay region. The College has also influenced the history of education in the city of De Pere and the surrounding region.

The district is also eligible at the national level of significance in the area of Religion for its history associated with the St. Norbert Priory, which subsequently became St. Norbert Abbey, was the first permanent foundation of the Norbertine Order in the United States. Two of the original buildings that are associated with the creation of this abbey are located and lie within the boundaries of the District: St. Joseph Church, and St. Joseph Priory. The creation of St. Norbert College occurred almost immediately after the monastery was founded and it was intended to be both a school preparing young men for the priesthood and to provide training in courses of study that would allow young men not destined for the priesthood to advance into business careers and other secular pursuits. The new college therefore served the needs of both the church and also of the larger community of which the church was a part.

From the time it was founded in 1898 until 1964, when the nearby UW-Green Bay campus was established, St. Norbert College was the only degree-granting institution of higher learning in the northeastern part of Wisconsin and as such it played an important role in providing college level educational opportunities not just for the Catholic college-age students in the region but for students of all faiths and it continues to fulfill this role today. The other seven buildings that are included in the District are all associated with the College and its subsequent development and they constitute all of the principal buildings that were constructed for the College up until 1956 and almost all of the buildings that were associated with the College up until 1966, the end of the period of significance. Consequently, the buildings in the St. Norbert College Historic District embody the entire early history of the College and of the Norbertine Order in the United States.

**Criteria Consideration A**

Ordinarily, buildings belonging to religious institutions are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places unless the buildings meet the requirements of Criteria Consideration A, which states that such resources must be: "A religious property deriving primary significance from

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architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance.”<sup>82</sup> The St. Norbert College Historic District meets the requirements of Criterion A. The buildings in the District embody architectural distinction because they are fine examples of various architectural styles and they are also fine examples of the work of the prestigious Green Bay architectural firms of William E. Reynolds, Feldhausen & Coughlen, and Bonners, Schober, and Kilp. The District also has historic distinction for its importance to the history of education in northeast Wisconsin. During the period of significance for history, 1898-1966, the College was the only degree-granting institution of higher learning in this part of Wisconsin. The College played an important part in the social, educational, and economic life of the city of De Pere since its founding in 1898 and it continues to do so today. The buildings that are included in the District are all associated with the historic evolution of the College until 1966, the end of the period of significance.

**Preservation Activity:**

The St. Norbert Historic District is fortunate in that it has leadership, faculty, staff, and alumni who take pride in their historic campus. In addition, the City of De Pere's Historic Preservation Commission has been active in educating residents of De Pere as to the importance and value of historic preservation, including acting as the sponsor of this nomination.

**Archeological Potential:**

The extent of any archeological remains in the District is conjectural at this time. Two sites have been found on the St. Norbert College campus grounds. The first, BR-0406, is known to be located outside the District boundaries, but the location of the second site (BR-0147) is not certain and it could be located within the boundaries.

BR-0147: Campsite/village. This site is located on the west shore of the Fox River in West De Pere. No other information is given in the Archaeological Sites Inventory at the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office; the current status of the site is unknown and additional investigations may need to be completed.

No other information regarding possible prehistoric remains in this area was found in the course of this research. It is likely that many remains of pre-European cultures that may once have been located within the nominated district would have been greatly disturbed by the building activities associated with the development of the area. Archeological potential within the nominated district remains unassessed.

<sup>82</sup> National Register Bulletin 16. *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. U.S. Government Printing Office, 1991, p. 37.



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National Park Service

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De Pere, Brown County, WI

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**Acknowledgments**

This project has been funded with the assistance of a grant-in-aid from the Park Service, US. Department of the Interior, under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended. Historic Preservation grants-in-aid are administered in Wisconsin in conjunction with the National Register of Historic Places program by the Division of Historic Preservation of the Wisconsin Historical Society. However, the contents and opinions contained in this nomination do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the National Park Service or the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Returned

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 1

St. Norbert College Historic District  
De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin

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**United States Department of the Interior**  
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**Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 1

St. Norbert College Historic District  
De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin

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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The boundary line begins at a point on the west shore of the Fox River that corresponds to the point of intersection with a line that is drawn parallel to the south curblineline of Grant Street extended to the east. The boundary follows the edge of the parcel adjacent to the river and excludes the shoreline. The line then continues in a WNW direction along said extended line and along the south curblineline of Grant Street for a distance of 655-feet, then turns 90° and continues SSW along the east edge of Lee J. Roemer Mall for a distance of 150-feet, then turns 90° and continues WNW 170-feet, then turns 90° and continues SSW for a distance of 200-feet until reaching a point located on the north curblineline of Marsh Street. The line then turns 90° and continues N3E along the north curblineline of Marsh Street a distance of 536-feet until reaching a point on the west shore of the Fox River. The line then turns and continues in a northerly direction along the irregular west shoreline of the Fox River a distance of approx. 1084-feet to the P.O.B. Said boundaries contain an area of approximately 13 acres.

**Boundary Justification:**

The District boundaries enclose all of the land that has historically been associated with the buildings in the District. Other campus buildings that are in some cases located adjacent to those in the District were not included because they were either of too recent a date of construction or else have been substantially altered and have lost integrity. No area of shoreline is included in the boundary.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

St. Norbert College Historic District  
De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin

Section photos Page 1

Items a-d are the same for photos 1 – 14.

Photo 1

- a) St. Norbert College Historic District
- b) De Pere, Brown County, WI
- c) Timothy F. Heggland, Nov. 12, 2011
- d) Wisconsin Historical Society
- e) St. Joseph Church, View looking S
- f) Photo 1 of 14

Photo 10

- e) Frank J. Sensenbrenner Hall, View looking SW
- f) Photo 10 of 14

Photo 11

- e) Victor McCormick Hall, View looking SW
- f) Photo 11 of 14

Photo 2

- e) Main Hall, View looking E
- f) Photo 2 of 14

Photo 12

- e) Victor McCormick Hall, View looking E
- f) Photo 12 of 14

Photo 3

- e) Main Hall, View looking W
- f) Photo 3 of 14

Photo 13

- e) General View, View looking W
- f) Photo 13 of 14

Photo 4

- e) Francis H. Boyle Hall, View looking N
- f) Photo 4 of 14

Photo 14

- e) General View, View looking WSW
- f) Photo 14 of 14

Photo 5

- e) Heating Plant & Maintenance Building, View looking N
- f) Photo 5 of 14

Photo 6

- e) St. Joseph Priory, View looking S
- f) Photo 6 of 14

Photo 7

- e) St. Joseph Priory, View looking NW
- f) Photo 7 of 14

Photo 8

- e) Dennis M. Burke Hall, View looking NE
- f) Photo 8 of 14

Photo 9

- e) Dennis M. Burke Hall, View looking SW
- f) Photo 9 of 14

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 1

St. Norbert College Historic District  
De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin

Figure 1: Boundary Map and Photo Key



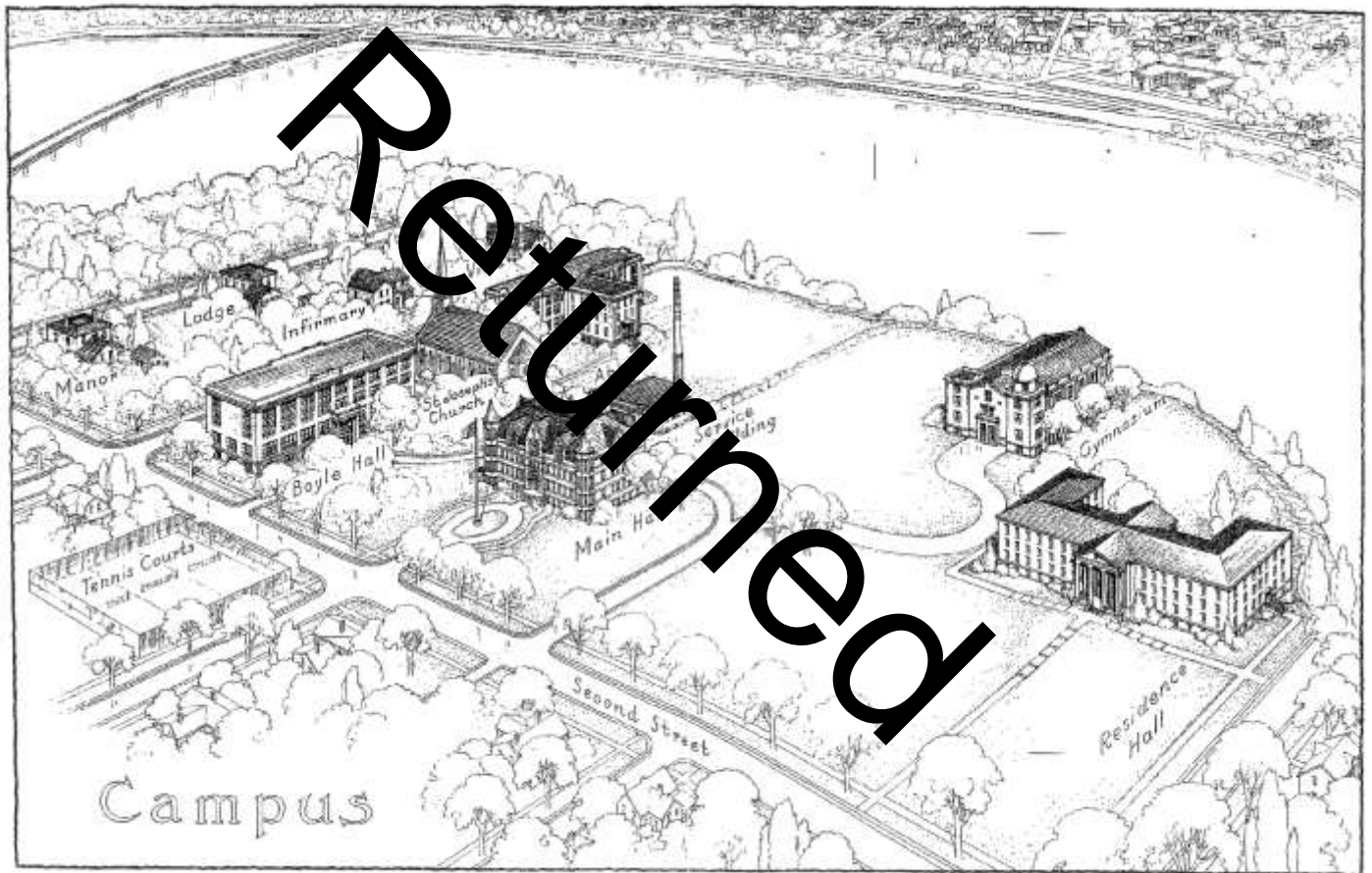
**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

St. Norbert College Historic District  
De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin

Section figures Page 2

Figure 2: Aerial Perspective Drawing of St. Norbert College Campus, 1942.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 8/11/2017      Date of Pending List: 9/7/2017      Date of 16th Day: 9/22/2017      Date of 45th Day: 9/25/2017      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- |                                       |  |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal       | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL                | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape           | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource     | <input type="checkbox"/> Period             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other        | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
|                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG                 |   |

Accept       Return       Reject      9/25/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary  
Comments:

Recommendation/  
Criteria

Reviewer Barbara Wyatt      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2252      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

### United States Department of the Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places

#### Comments Evaluation/Return Sheet

**Property Name:** St. Norbert College Historic District  
**Property Location:** DePere, WI  
**Reference Number:** 10001658  
**Date of Return:** 10-2-17

The nomination for the St. Norbert College Historic District is being returned for more information regarding national significance.

#### **Reason for Return**

The district is clearly eligible at the local level, but better context is needed for an explanation of national significance for the church. Further, the effect of later changes on the integrity of the interior of the church should be addressed fully.

The church is said to be “significant at the national level as the birthplace of the Norbertine religious order in the United States” (p. 8-1). The national significance of the Norbertine order should be documented. Why is the order itself nationally significant? What work has it done in the United States to demonstrate its significance? How did that work evolve over the twentieth century? If its major purpose is training priests, it would be important to explain the contributions made by Norbertine priests.

If it is demonstrated that this order is nationally significant, then the church in DePere may indeed be significant; however, this situation seems a bit confused by Father Pennings’ (with two colleagues) first stop in Door County. A historic marker in Namur declares the schoolhouse there to be the “Birthplace of the Norbertine Fathers.” This schoolhouse is on the grounds of the Namur Belgian Heritage Foundation Center (the former Our Lady of Snows Church and Cemetery). It is located in the Namur Belgian Historic District, a National Historic Landmark. It is essential to reconcile these rival attributions.

If the church in DePere proves to be the birthplace, the significant changes, especially on the interior, must be evaluated more carefully. Given the extensive removals and reconfiguration,



perhaps St. Joseph Church would be “instantly recognizable to the many generations of alumni that they served” (p. 7-19). More importantly, it is not clear that the Norbertine founders, whose work is the foundation of the claim of national significance, would recognize it as they knew it in 1890.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss this nomination. I can be reached at 202-354-2252 or by email at [barbara\\_wyatt@nps.gov](mailto:barbara_wyatt@nps.gov).

Barbara Wyatt, Historian  
National Register of Historic Places

*Barbara Wyatt*  
10-2-17



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100 Grant Street • De Pere, WI 54115-2099 • [www.snc.edu/president](http://www.snc.edu/president)

August 27, 2014

Gene Hackbarth  
Member, De Pere Historical Preservation Commission  
933 Oakdale Avenue  
De Pere, WI 54115

Dear Gene:

Thank you and De Pere's Historic Preservation Committee for your proposal to submit a sub-grant to cover the nomination expenses for listing historic St. Norbert College buildings on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

St. Norbert College fully supports this proposal. We are proud of the historical significance of our campus as well as its relationship to the City of De Pere, and we look forward to working with you to ensure a successful nomination process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas Kunkel".

Thomas Kunkel  
President



WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



TO: Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Peggy Veregin  
National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this Ninth day of August 2017, for the nomination of the St. Norbert College Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places:

<u>1</u>	Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
<u>1</u>	CD with NRHP Nomination form PDF
<u>        </u>	Multiple Property Nomination form
<u>14</u>	Photograph(s)
<u>1</u>	CD with image files
<u>1</u>	Map(s)
<u>2</u>	Sketch map(s)/figures(s)/exhibit(s)
<u>3</u>	Piece(s) of correspondence
<u>        </u>	Other:

COMMENTS:

<u>        </u>	Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed
<u>        </u>	This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
<u>        </u>	The enclosed owner objection(s) do or do not constitute a majority of property owners
<u>        </u>	Other:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 3/8/2018      Date of Pending List:      Date of 16th Day:      Date of 45th Day: 4/23/2018      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      4/19/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary  
Comments:

Recommendation/  
Criteria

Reviewer Barbara Wyatt      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2252      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.