

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received NOV 14 1984

date entered

DEC 13 1984

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

1. Name

historic East Wing (Old Main)

and/or common Hyer Hall

2. Location

street & number University of Wisconsin - Whitewater, Wyman Mall not for publication

city, town Whitewater vicinity of

state Wisconsin code 55 county Walworth code 127

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name State of Wisconsin, University of Wisconsin System

street & number 1930 Monroe Street

city, town Madison vicinity of state Wisconsin 53701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number Walworth County Courthouse

city, town Elkhorn state Wisconsin 53121

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on the spacious, 380 acre campus of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Hyer Hall is an imposing, 4-story, cream-brick structure of early 20th century Renaissance Revival design. Set on a gently sloping site, the building was completed in 1925 in an effort to relieve the growing space demands being placed on the original Old Main facilities of the State Normal School campus at Whitewater. Basically square in plan, the building consists of two interconnected units. An L-shaped classroom and office wing along the eastern and southern elevations envelops a flat-roofed auditorium space which occupies the entire northwestern portion of the building.

Sitting on a raised limestone base of regularly-coursed stone, the building's major (East) facade features a rusticated brick ground story area which is capped by a heavy stone waterable and punctuated by simple rectangular window openings. Symmetrically-arranged, round-arched windows, detailed with stone sills, are found on the building's second and third stories, while simple, regularly-spaced rectangular openings mark the facade's top floor. Running underneath both the second and fourth story windows are slender, continuous stone sills which add a horizontal emphasis to the structure's appearance. The entire facade of Hyer Hall, which faces upon the W.D. Wyman Campus Mall, is flanked by slightly projecting end bays, each of which contains a series of three window openings at each of the top three floor levels.

A projecting central entrance vestibule at the first floor level exhibits highly stylized classical forms. Detailed in stone, the entryway features a segmental arch opening framed by an oversized egg and dart molding and a floral keystone. A large stone crest and parapet featuring stylized consoles sits atop the vestibule, supported by concave corner "columns" and a denticulated molding.

Above the entryway, set into a blind arch of parqueted brickwork, are three narrow stairway windows featuring rounded arch openings. Above them is a bracketed stone balcony enclosed with a metal railing. The "ceremonial" balcony, which is supported on heavy stone consoles and the oversized keystone of the lower arcade, is backed by two tall rectangular openings at the fourth floor level.

The southern elevation of the classroom unit, which reduces from 4-stories at the front to three at the rear due to the sloping site, contains the same window fenestration patterns as the main facade with rounded arch windows on the second and third floors and rectangular openings on the first and fourth, each level detailed by slender stone sills. The building's distinctive window fenestration is based on the overall patterns exhibited by the earlier nineteenth-century structures which comprised the original Old Main complex originally located to the west of Hyer Hall, which the new East Wing of 1925 was designed to compliment.

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

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

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Continuation sheet East Wing, Whitewater, Wis. Item number 7

Page 1

The entire L-shaped classroom and office unit is capped by a low, hipped roof of asphalt shingles broken only by a series of metal ventilators located on the roof's inner slope. The roof had originally been clad in slate shingles. A series of metal downspouts drain the roof's interior gutters. The cornice area features a boldly detailed modillion cornice and a simple, flat frieze of buff-colored terra cotta which rests upon the top of the fourth floor window openings.

The large auditorium space visible from the north and west sides of the building offers rather simple, undetailed brick surfaces punctuated only by a series of large elliptical window openings (now infilled) on the northern elevation. A flat-roofed design, the auditorium features a raised stage house flytower located above the stage area which is detailed by a simple cornice. To the rear (west elevation) of the building is a new concrete and brick fire stair which provides the building with a secondary entrance at the second floor level.

The original wooden window sash installed in the building have been replaced by modern, energy-efficient sash and wooden infill panels. Along with the new fire stair attached at the rear of the building these alterations serve to detract from the building's original appearance. The volumetric massing, grand scale and harmonic window rhythms of Hyer Hall, however, still express a rich architectural vocabulary.

The interior plan of the structure is determined largely by the setting of a single-loaded hallway of office, classroom and workroom spaces around two sides of an expansive auditorium and lecture hall space. The general layout and room arrangement of the L-shaped classroom and office spaces remains relatively consistent for all four floors, except for minor changes. Unpretentious in design, the almost sparse interior spaces feature simple wood trim and terrazzo floors. Although relatively unaltered, the interiors contain no significant detailing. In the auditorium space, modern renovations have altered much of the room's original appearance.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1925¹ **Builder/Architect** Arthur Peabody (State Department of Engineering)²

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Period of Significance: 1925-34

Locally significant in the areas of architecture and education, the old East Wing building of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, occupying a prominent hilltop site at the ceremonial entrance to the campus, is one of the most architecturally distinctive, early twentieth century academic buildings erected at the school. The largest building on campus at the time of its completion 1924-25, the East Wing building was designed to dramatically compliment the existing multi-unit Old Main complex of the State Normal School at Whitewater, which had been built between 1868 and 1911. Completed at a time of expansive growth for the Normal School, Hyer Hall represents a significant period of development in higher education in the Whitewater community.

Historical Significance: Educational Development

First opened to students in 1868, the State Normal School at Whitewater experienced tremendous growth and expansion pressures in the 1910s and 1920s as a result of extensive curriculum changes and continuously growing demands for well-trained public school educators. In particular, Whitewater had been the second normal school in the nation to establish a program for the specialized training of teachers in the growing field of commercial education (business) in 1913. Between 1910 and 1924 enrollment at the school increased from 295 to over 580 students, not including those children taught at the normal's training school facility.⁴ Increasingly pressured by the lack of sufficient academic space, the school petitioned the State Board of Regents for the erection of a new academic building and in 1921 the Legislature made an appropriation of \$250,000 for the completion of a new East Wing at the Whitewater Normal School to be located directly adjacent to the original Central Main Building of 1865.⁵ Not until 1924 however did Gov. John Blaine finally approve the plans for the new facility and authorize the start of construction.⁶

The new classroom and auditorium space was to be the largest building erected on the small campus and would house teaching space for classes in home economics, bookkeeping, machine accounting, commercial mathematics, shorthand, typewriting, English language, sociology, biology and education, as well as, a 1,000 seat auditorium and offices for various faculty and administrators.⁷ Seen as "a great monument to the triumph of business education" at Whitewater, the East Wing building was completed and ready

9. Major Bibliographical References

Architectural Plans for the East Wing Building, Whitewater Normal School, dated 1923, Arthur Peabody architect, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Archives.

Bohi, Mary Janette, A History of Wisconsin State University, Whitewater 1868-1968, Whitewater: University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, 1967 (see cont. sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Whitewater

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	6	3	5	7	5	2	0	4	7	4	3	8	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification A parcel of land on the University of Wisconsin Whitewater campus, Whitewater, Wisconsin fronting on the Wyman Campus Mall (formerly Graham St.) beginning at a point 300' north of the northwest corner of Main Street and Wyman Mall, extending 120' (see cont. sheet)

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul R. Lusignan, Acting Architectural Historian

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date September 1984

street & number 816 State Street telephone (608) 262-4772

city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Jeff Pearson*

title Director of Historic Preservation date October 23, 1984

For NPS use only

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

John Allouez Byer
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 12-13-84

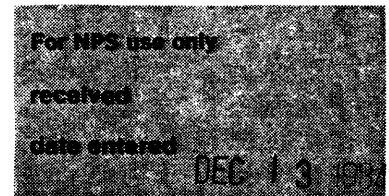
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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



Continuation sheet East Wing, Whitewater Wis.

Item number 8

Page 1

for its official opening in June of 1925.⁸ The new building remained for the next 25 years, along with its Old Main counterparts, the only academic facilities on the entire school campus, until the 1950s and 1960s saw a new era of growth and change in the statewide university system that brought about the present campus.

As the last historic structure on campus representative of the school's expansive growth period in the 1910s and 20s, and a distinctive aspect of the school's pioneering commercial education department, the East Wing building is a significant historical resource on the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater campus.

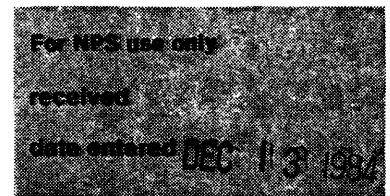
Architectural Significance

Designed by State Architect Arthur Peabody⁹ in a bold Renaissance Revival style, the solidly-built, cream brick building was clearly a fine addition to the growing State Normal School at Whitewater, and quickly became a prominent centerpiece of the campus. The building's architect, Arthur Peabody, had joined the Madison based staff of the State Department of Engineering as State Architect in 1915, after 10 years of service as chief architect for the University of Wisconsin at Madison. A prominent architect trained at the University of Illinois, Peabody was responsible for extensive commissions both in Madison and across the state, including the Memorial Union building on the University of Wisconsin campus, Camp Randall stadium, the State Office Building in Madison, and Wisconsin General Hospital. Peabody remained in his position as director,¹⁰ of the state's architectural design division for a period of 23 years.

When an arsonist's fire gutted the earliest structures of the Old Main complex in 1970 and forced their demolition (leaving Hyer Hall untouched except for considerable water damage), the East Wing became the oldest remaining academic structure on the University campus. Renamed Hyer Hall for former school president Frank Hyer (1919-1930), the building is a proud example of the grand academic buildings of early twentieth-century normal school design within the state. Unequaled in scale or degree of ornamentation on campus, Hyer Hall represents the considerable efforts of the staff of the state architect's office. The building's solid massing, classically-oriented details and general integrity all strengthen its position as a significant and evocative illustration of the architectural and social tastes of early twentieth century academic design.

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

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



Continuation sheet East Wing, Whitewater, Wis. Item number 8

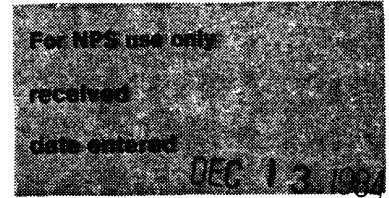
Page 2

Footnotes

- ¹Bohi, M.J., A History of Wisconsin State University, Whitewater 1868-1968, p.140
- ²Taken from architectural plans for the East Wing building housed in Area Research Center, UW-Whitewater (dated 1923)
- ³Whitewater Historical Society, One Hundred Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, p.31
- ⁴Annual Catalogue of the State Normal School, Whitewater, Wisconsin, 1925, p.21
- ⁵Bohi, p.150
- ⁶Ibid., p.150
- ⁷Ibid., pp.139-140
- ⁸Ibid., p.140
- ⁹Architectural plans... (see above)
- ¹⁰Wisconsin Necrology, Vol.47, pp.184-185

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

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



Continuation sheet East Wing, Whitewater, Wis. Item number 9

Page 1

Herrmann, William Harold, The Rise of the Public Normal School System
in Wisconsin, Madison: Board of Regents of State Universities, 1953.

State Board of Regents of Normal Schools, Proceedings, 1924-1925, State
Historical Society of Wisconsin Library, Madison, Wisconsin.

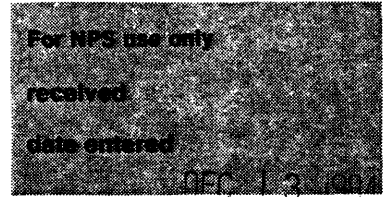
Whitewater Historical Society, One Hundred Twenty-Fifth Anniversary,
Whitewater: Whitewater Historical Society, 1962.

Wisconsin Necrology, Volume No. 47, pp.184-185.

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Archives, Area Research Center,
UW-Whitewater.

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

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

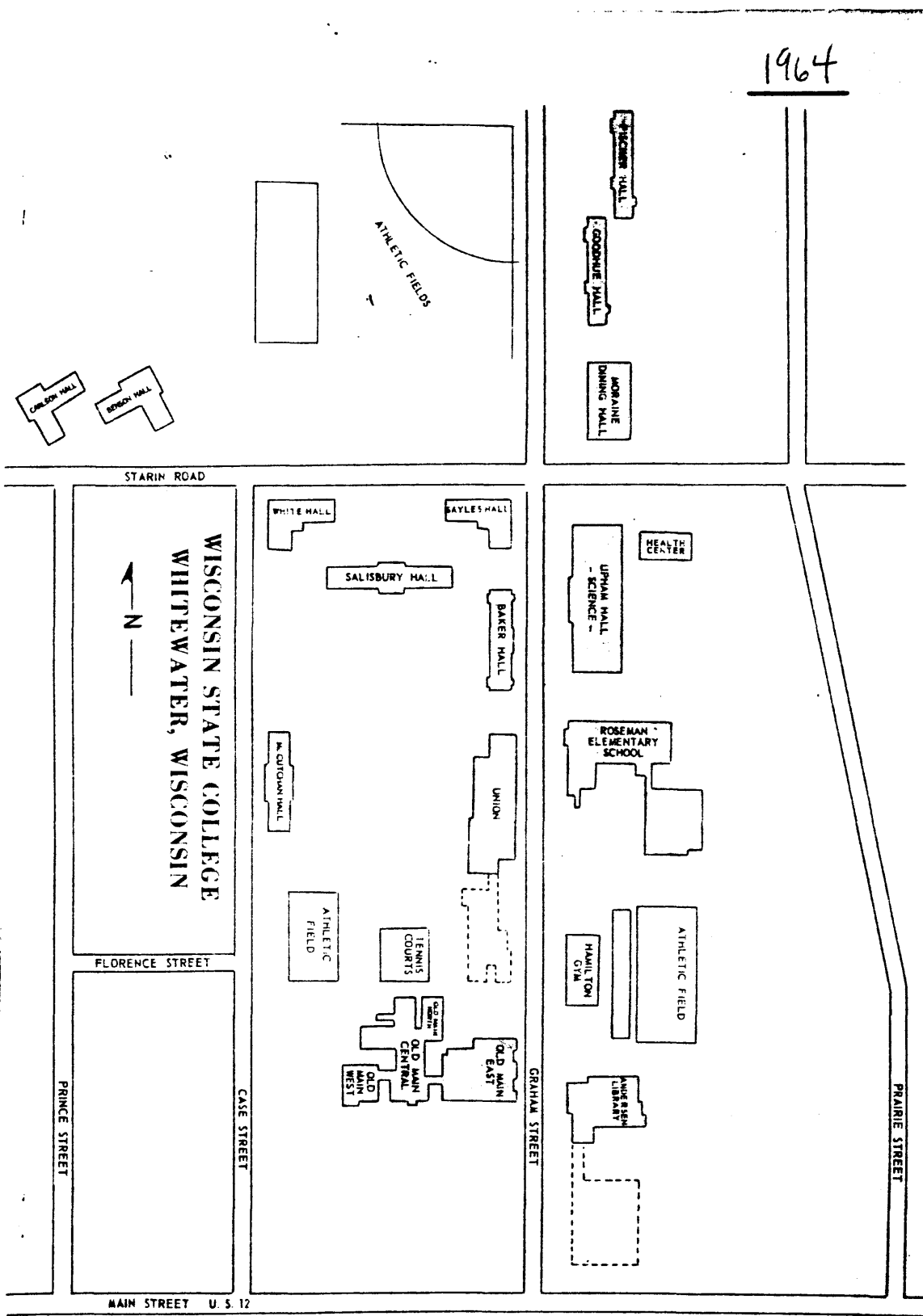


Continuation sheet East Wing, Whitewater, Wis. Item number 10

Page 1

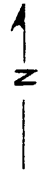
west, 100' north, 120' east, and 100' south; following generally the path of a concrete and asphalt walkway surrounding the property.

1964



STARIN ROAD

WISCONSIN STATE COLLEGE
WHITE WATER, WISCONSIN



FLORENCE STREET

PRINCE STREET

MAIN STREET U. S. 12

CASE STREET

WHITE HALL

DAYLES HALL

SALISBURY HALL

BAKER HALL

UNION

M. COTTON HALL

ATHLETIC FIELD

TENNIS COURTS

OLD MAIN EAST
OLD MAIN CENTRAL
OLD MAIN WEST

GRAHAM STREET

PECKER HALL

GOODRUE HALL

MORRINE DINING HALL

HEALTH CENTER

UPHAM HALL - SCIENCE

ROSEMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ATHLETIC FIELD

HAMILTON

ANDERSON LIBRARY

PRAIRIE STREET

CARLSON HALL
BERSON HALL

ATHLETIC FIELDS