

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received SEP 30 1985

date entered

007 31 1985

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

1. Name

historic United Church Seminary

and/or common Luther Theological Seminary

2. Location

street & number 2481 Como Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town St. Paul N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Ramsey code 123

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary

street & number 1501 Fulham Street

city, town St. Paul N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ramsey County Courthouse

street & number 15 W. Kellogg Boulevard

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Survey of St. Paul  
and Ramsey County

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980-82  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Ramsey County Historical Society, 75 W. 5th St., #323

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55102

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The United Church Seminary (now Bockman Hall), built in 1900-1901, is the main administration building located on the campus of what is now the Northwestern Lutheran Seminary, at Como Avenue and Luther Place in the St. Anthony Park residential neighborhood of St. Paul. The building is located west of Gullixson Hall, a limestone-faced Collegiate Gothic style classroom, library and administration building, built in 1949, and the log Muskego Church, built in 1843-44 and moved from Wisconsin to the campus in 1904. Muskego Church is listed on the National Register. The United Church Seminary/Bockman Hall is the focal point of the campus. A long walk, flanked by lawns and flower beds, leads up to the building from Como Avenue.

The United Church Seminary/Bockman Hall is an elegant, symmetrical, Beaux-Arts-inspired temple front structure constructed of light red, pressed brick, with red mortar joints. The building has an E-shaped plan. The building has radiating brick voussoirs above the round arched first floor windows and brick jack arches over some of the rectangular windows on the upper floors, brick string courses and brickwork laid to resemble quoins. The projecting, central, pedimented portico has colossal, fluted, Corinthian, stone columns, with paired columns at the corners. Above the entablature is an attic level floor with paired, round arched windows divided by brick pilasters and topped by a frieze with garlands and the words "Luther Theological Seminary" (it originally read "United Church Seminary"). Above this is a full pediment with modillions and dentils, and crowned with palmette acroterions with volutes. Within the pediment is a cross. The end wings on the main facade project slightly. Each of the outer wings on the rear of the building has a rounded, apsidal-like projecting bay. A new entrance has been installed on the west side of the back facade.

The third floor was added to the central portion of the building in 1923 at an estimated cost of \$16,000, according to the designs of local architect William L. Alban who had been the chief draftsman for the original architects of the building, Omeyer and Thori, from 1899 to 1905 and may well have had a hand in the original design of the building. The third floor addition blends well with the original building in design and building materials. The building's original classical cornice and a balustrade that once topped the flat portion of the roof were probably removed when this addition was installed. The addition provided more dormitory space and included remodeling of the kitchen-dining area. The building underwent a number of alterations in 1955 to convert some of the space to offices. At that time a chapel in the east wing was converted to living rooms (see continuation sheet)

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1900-1901

**Builder/Architect** Didrik A. Omeyer & Martin P. Thori

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The United Church Seminary (now Bockman Hall), built in 1900-1901 and designed by the St. Paul firm of Omeyer and Thori, is historically and architecturally significant as the focal point of campus life at the United Church Seminary, founded as a Norwegian Lutheran Seminary and now known as Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary. The Seminary has been a training ground for Lutheran ministers for over eighty years.

The Lutheran church was "the most visible manifestation of the bridges between the Norwegian and Norwegian-American cultures," and served as the heart of the typical Norwegian American community, according to Carlton Qualey and Jon Gjerde (see bibliography). Though Norwegian immigrants arrived in the Twin Cities as early as the 1850's, the major influx began between 1880 and 1890 and by then a sizeable portion of the Norwegian immigrants were settling in urban areas. By 1890, 16 percent of the Norwegian born immigrants in Minnesota lived in the Twin Cities. Many of the Norwegian Lutheran congregations in the state brought ordained pastors from Norway to serve. Another alternative was to ordain untrained laymen as ministers. The Luther Seminary represents another approach: a local school for the training of pastors, teachers, and missionaries.

Though Norway, itself, had its own united state church, in the United States Norwegians quickly formed synods. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (later the Norwegian Synod), founded in 1846, emphasized the "low church", pietistic doctrines of Hans Nielsen Hauge. The "high church" view's of the state church of Norway were found in the Norwegian Evangelical Church in America, founded in 1853. By 1876, these groups had split into five separate synods.

The first effort to train Norwegian Lutheran ministers in America was made in 1857 when the Norwegian Evangelical Synod endorsed a recommendation to establish a Norwegian professorship at the German Lutheran Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. When the German Lutherans refused to take a stand against slavery, the Norwegian Lutherans formed their own seminary, in 1861. It became Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. By 1869, another Norwegian Lutheran Seminary had been founded in Marshall, (see continuation sheet)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name St. Paul West

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A 

1	5	4	8	4	5	2	0	4	9	8	1	0	6	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

The Boundary of the United Church Seminary nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled "United Church Seminary, 1985" and drawn to a scale of 200 feet to the inch.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia Murphy

organization Historic Sites Survey of St. Paul and Ramsey County

date July, 1984

street & number Ramsey County Historical Society 75 W. 5th St., #323

telephone 612-222-0701

city or town St. Paul

state MN 55102

# 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

title Russell W. Fridley  
State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9/25/85

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date 10-31-85

  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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

Continuation sheet United Church Seminary

Item number 7,8

Page 1

7. Description -- continued

for the dormitory quarters, and enclosed brick stairwells were added on each of the side walls. The building has new aluminum combination windows, and the original front entrance doors have been replaced with paired plate glass doors. The interior of the building has undergone numerous alterations over the years.

8. Significance -- continued

Wisconsin. It became Augsburg College and moved to Minneapolis in 1872. The various synods formed several Norwegian-American colleges in Minnesota, including St. Olaf, Augsburg, Concordia College in Moorhead and Red Wing Seminary. Red Wing Seminary, founded in 1879, served the Hauge synod.

The United Church Seminary was started in St. Paul in 1900 by the United Norwegian Lutheran Church, a group formed in 1890 from a merger of several synods and 23 Minnesota congregations that had split from the high-church Norwegian Evangelical Synod during a controversy about the doctrine of election. In 1917 a compromise was reached and the Hauge Synod, the Norwegian Evangelical Synod and the United Church officially merged as the Norwegian Lutheran Church in America. That year the Red Wing Theological Seminary then merged with Luther Seminary, and its college, established in 1903, merged with St. Olaf. The Norwegian Lutheran Church joined with some other Lutheran groups in 1930 to form the American Lutheran Church.

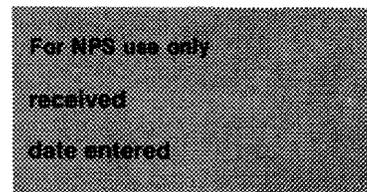
The seminary at Augsburg College merged with Luther Seminary in St. Paul in 1963 when Augsburg's sponsor, the Lutheran Free Church, merged with the American Lutheran Church, the sponsor of Luther Seminary. The Northwestern Theological Seminary, an outgrowth of the Chicago Lutheran Divinity School located in Minneapolis since 1922, constructed a new building on the former Breck preparatory school campus north of the Luther Seminary campus in 1967. The Northwestern Seminary formally merged with Luther Seminary in 1982 to form Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary, an institution which occupies the former campuses of both Breck School and the United Church Seminary.

The United Church Seminary/Bockman Hall was constructed at an estimated cost of \$75,000 and was designed by the St. Paul architectural firm of Didrik A. Omeyer and Martin P. Thori. Omeyer and Thori also designed the Augsburg New Main Building in Minneapolis, built in 1901 and now listed on the National Register. They also designed literally dozens of sophisticated,  
(see continuation sheet)

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

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

United Church Seminary



Continuation sheet

Resource Count

Item number

7

Page 2

The United Church Seminary nomination contains one contributing building.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet United Church Seminary

Item number 8,9

Page 2

8. Significance -- continued

Queen Anne style houses in St. Paul in the 1880's and 1890's and at least one church, the Norwegian Lutheran Church at Sherburne and Farrington (1901). The building was named for Reverend Marcus O. Bockman, the first president of the school who served from the opening of the school in 1902 until 1930. The United Church Seminary/Bockman Hall originally housed the entire seminary, including offices, a reception room and library on the first floor, housing for faculty, students and staff on the second floor, and a chapel, gymnasium, classrooms, laundry, and a kitchen. Today the building is used as a dormitory and office building. The school is the largest Lutheran seminary in the country and has 840 students.

9. Major Bibliographical References

City of St. Paul Building Permits Division. Permit #37685 (1900) and #4361 (1923).

Historic Sites Survey of St. Paul and Ramsey County survey form and architect and contractor files, 1980-82. Unpublished materials on file at the Ramsey County Historical Society.

National Register Nomination form for New Main, Augsburg Seminary, Minneapolis, prepared by Camille Kudzia and Liz Holum, 1982.

Carlton C. Qualey and Jon A. Gjerde. "The Norwegians" in They Chose Minnesota, edited by J.D. Holmquist. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1981.

Quanbeck, Warren A. et. al, editors. Striving for Ministry: Centennial Essays Interpreting the Heritage of Luther Theological Seminary. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1977.