

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

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date entered

DEC 13 1983

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

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

1. Name

historic Koren Library

and or common

2. Location

street & number Luther College Campus not for publication

city, town Decorah vicinity of

state Iowa code 19 county Winneshiek code 191

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> 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
	<u>N/A</u>	<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 College

street & number

city, town Decorah vicinity of state Iowa 52101

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office

street & number Winneshiek County Courthouse

city, town Decorah state Iowa 52101

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Koren Library is a brick walled, reinforced concrete framed building of two principal floors (with four-level stacks) which served as college library from 1921 to 1969, and then did duty as music hall, chapel, and faculty office building.

The building is located on a modest slope at the southeast corner of the campus. It forms a pivot at the main entrance to the college, and is across the street from "Campus House," a mid-nineteenth century brick house now containing the president's office.

The building is in three sections: the main section, 80 ft. by 30 ft. containing two stories; the central portion, 60 ft. by 21 ft., with three stories and basement; and the third section in the rear, 60 ft. by 26 ft. The main entrance is on the west side toward the campus. That portion of the library, which was built to house the reading room, is rectangular with five windows, headed by round arches, giving light to the piano nobile from the west, with one additional window each at the north and south ends. A stone string course separates the first and second floors of the main (west) portion, which is topped by a stone cornice with a brick parapet above. The rear (eastern) portion of the building is in two rectangular blocks accomodated to the slope containning, in the first, the stairs and some offices, and, in the second, the stacks (four levels). The stack block has continuous vertical strip fenestration on the north, east, and south walls. The building has a flat roof, with skylights in the center (stair well) block.

The exterior walls are of red "Hy-tex #16 sand-mould Colonial brick" manufactured by the Hydraulic-Press Brick Co. of St. Louis and Minneapolis. Stone trim is, in part at least, "Rustic Buff and No. 1 Gray Indiana Oolitic Limestone" from the Furst-Kerber Cut Stone Co. of Bedford, Indiana. Structural elements are a combination of reinforced concrete and concrete block. The book stack is of the self-supporting cast-iron and steel type manufactured by Snead and Co., Jersey City, New Jersey.

The brick parapet above the cornice on the main (western) and central blocks was lowered by about one half in the 1970's. An enclosed brick stair well was added on the north side in the 1970's to meet state fire safety regulations; the stair enclosure continues the decorative patterns in the original brickwork, but has non-conforming fenestration.

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 1920–21 **Builder/Architect** Magney & Tulser, Inc., Architects & Engineers, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Koren Library, dedicated on October 14, 1921, was named in honor of Ulrik Vilhelm Koren, one of the founders and long-time supporters of Luther College. The intended purpose for this building was to provide space for the college library and museum, augmented by an extensive collection of Norwegian history and literature, an important collection for a college established by the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Koren Library has been and continues to be a significant building on the Luther College campus in at least four areas.

1. **ARCHITECTURE:** Koren Library represents classical/renaissance revival architecture at Luther College in the form of a sophisticated design by regional architects. It was identified as "a modern adaptation of the Georgian style" when built. The architects, identified as Magney and Tulser, of Minneapolis, are later noted for their design of the Foshay tower and several other landmarks in the Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, area.
2. **EDUCATION (LIBRARY SCIENCE):** It is the embodiment of scientific library planning, as developed by the Library of Congress and the University of Chicago Libraries. J.C.M. Hanson, 1882 Luther College graduate, was a forerunner in the development of the Library of Congress classification system. It was his extensive training and experience in library planning and usage at several noted institutions (Newsberry, Library of Congress, University of Chicago Libraries, etc.) and his close association with Luther College that encouraged a personal invitation from President C.K. Preus to J.C.M. Hanson to serve as chairman of the building committee and chief consultant for planning the Koren Library. As early as 1901, Mr. Hanson was providing references to available books and publications on library architecture, and specific suggestions for the library building at Luther. He followed up with several visits to Luther, correspondence to various people concerning the building, and active participation in the physical planning and fund raising for Koren Library. Once built, the shift to a new library building provided the opportunity to change from the Dewey decimal to the Library of Congress classification system. This was implemented under the very capable supervision of K.T. Jacobsen (head librarian 1920–1949). Mr. Jacobsen had been at the Library of Congress from 1907–1911, and prior to coming to Luther, Head Classifier at the University of Chicago Libraries.
3. **EDUCATION (CAMPUS PLANNING):** The proposed location of Koren Library was suggested as early as 1909–11 by the noted Chicago landscape architect Jens Jensen. It was at that time Jensen was commissioned to prepare a campus plan suggesting plantings and locations for proposed buildings on campus. Jensen's original plan placed the library at the site of an existing building known as Campus House. This idea was rejected by the administration of the college, so Jensen prepared an alternative

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Decorah

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>15</u>	<u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>16</u> <u>8</u> <u>19</u> <u>10</u>	<u>4</u> <u>17</u> <u>9</u> <u>15</u> <u>7</u> <u>15</u> <u>10</u>
	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

Lot 7, of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 17, T-98-N, R-8-W. This includes only the library building and minimal surrounding open space, bounded on three sides by campus access roads.

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
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state		code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Klimesh, Assistant Registrar, Luther College, Decorah Iowa.

organization Contact Iowa SHPO date 6 December 1983

street & number Historical Building E. 12th & Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-8152

city or town Des Moines. state Iowa 50319⁰¹

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 *Adrian A. Anderson*

title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Department date 12/9/83

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

Melrose Byers **Entered in the** date 1/12/84
National Register
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

plan, which suggested the present location of Koren Library. (A Luther College Chips article dated May, 1921, states: "The library will thus form an additional link in the circle of buildings planned by landscape architect Jensen of Chicago a few years ago." pg.190) Evidence of this is also apparent in correspondence between Jensen and C.K. Preus, dated 1909-11.

4. EDUCATION (COLLEGE SUPPORT): Koren Library was built at a time that bridged two administrations: President C.K. Preus, 1902-1921, and President Oscar L. Olson, 1921-1932. It also saw the change of librarians from C.A. Naeseth (1887-1920) to Karl T. Jacobsen (1920-1949). Its completion was contingent upon the active involvement of many students, alumni, and friends of Luther College. The planning dates back several years from the actual date of construction in 1920-21. As early as 1901, Professor C.A. Naeseth, then librarian, was in contact with J.C.M. Hanson (LC 1882) at the Library of Congress regarding questions on library architecture. Not only providing professional advice in regards to planning the building, Mr. Hanson was instrumental in soliciting funds and support from the Luther College Alumni Association in Chicago, and other midwest cities. In 1909, work was well under way by the student body to make the library building a reality. The students participated in the manufacture of the concrete blocks later used for the construction of the foundation walls. Approximately 20,000 concrete blocks were produced for this purpose. For continuing support of this building project, President Preus was called upon to spearhead a subscription drive, until his death in 1921. The responsibility then fell into the hands of his sons, and later several other people became involved, until the building costs were finally paid.

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CHRONOLOGY OF USE OF KOREN LIBRARY

- I. 1920-21 Date of construction: built as library and museum building
- II. 1921-1969 Primary function of the building is college library
- III. 1969-1978 Koren Building designated as Spiritual Life Center and office and classroom facility; former reading room used as chapel
 - A. November 1971 Dedication of Hendrickson Pipe Organ (constructed by Charles Hendrickson Organ Co.) located in former reading room, to be used for worship, recitals and lessons
 - B. 1974 Former stack area utilized as Luther College Archaeological Research Center
 - C. 1976 Portions of the first floor used for nursing department laboratory
 - D. 1978 Studio and practice rooms for Luther Orchestra staff and string instruction installed in various locations of the office and classroom area
- IV. 1978- Primarily used as office and classroom facility with archaeological laboratory in stack area

Spiritual center and music office removed to the following facilities, respectively: Center for Faith and Life (1978) and Jenson Hall of Music (1982)

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Bibliography

Koren Library

Luther College Archives: Board of Trustees minutes; correspondence; blueprints; and Luther College Catalogs

Luther College Chips: Feb., May, Nov., 1909; Feb., June, Dec., 1920; May, Oct., 1921

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Magney and Tusler

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Jens Jensen

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