NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received FEB 14 1985
date entered MAR 14 1985

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

1. Name

historic Agriculture Hall

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 1450 Linden Dr., University of Wisconsin Campus ___ not for publication

city, town Madison ___ vicinity of

state Wisconsin code 55 county Dane code 025

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name University of Wisconsin, Board of Regents

street & number 1860 Van Hise Hall

city, town Madison ___ vicinity of state Wisconsin

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Dane County Courthouse

street & number 201 Monona Avenue

city, town Madison state Wisconsin

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Madison Campus Architecture, Historical and Archaeological Survey has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1978 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Department of Planning and Construction
University of wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
_X_ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
___ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located at 1450 Linden Drive on the University of Wisconsin Madison campus, Agriculture Hall is a three-story building with a rusticated raised basement designed in the Beaux Arts Classic style, measuring 200 feet along the south (main) facade and sixty-four feet on the east and west facades. The raised basement is constructed of Indiana buff Bedford limestone, the upper stories of buff pressed brick in Flemish bond with terra cotta and limestone trim. On the north facade of the main block is attached a two-story octagonal wing sixty-six feet across, flanked on either side by a rectangular poured concrete and brick basement addition, erected in 1928 and banked into Observatory Hill. The symmetrical exterior of the main building features quoins, a string course, and an enriched cornice of limestone. A two story limestone portico, three bays wide, is attached to a central projecting pavilion on the south facade, marking the main entrance. The portico's heavy entablature is supported by four fluted Ionic columns with enriched capitals, and ornamented with dentils, an egg-and-dart molding, and a panel with raised lettering reading "COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE." The double entrance doors to the rear of the portico are surmounted by a raised "W", a limestone panel inscribed "AGRICULTURE," and a tall transom whose muntins form multiple Roman window motifs. On either side of the entrance is a square of marble, surmounted by a marble medallion set in a fruit-and-vegetable wreath, and another tall transom window. A set of double doors appears on the east facade of the main block, and there is a single door on the west facade. At either end on the north facade of the main block, a door at each level gives access to a fire escape. The octagon has a door at basement level on the east facade and a set of double doors at the first floor on the west facade. On the north facade of the octagon are two single doors, regularly spaced, each set in an architrave shouldered at top and bottom. Each door has a pedimented frontispiece set on consoles and ornamented with a swag and a cartouche. Between the doors is a plaque inscribed "AUDITORIUM AND LIBRARY HALL OF AGRICULTURE." Two brick chimneys appear at either end on the hipped red tile roof of the main block. Limestone cresting in a floral motif ornaments the roof's edge. The red tile roof of the octagon is capped with a squat octagonal wooden cupola with a Roman window motif on each face and a domical copper roof. The octagon has Roman windows on the first and second floors, while the flanking basement additions have fixed multi-paned windows. The remainder of the windows are double-hung sash, evenly spaced. Those at basement and third floor level have no surrounds, while those at the second story have sills, voussoirs and keystones of limestone. On the south, east and west facades of the main block at the piano nobile each window is set in an architrave shouldered at top and bottom, with either a scrolled keystone or an ornate tabernacle window enframement.

Agriculture Hall has undergone no structural alterations on the interior although it has been modified with the installation of tile flooring throughout, and in some areas, dropped acoustical tile ceilings. The plan consists of a series of rooms opening onto a central corridor. Throughout the building the door and window surrounds are of dark wood with multiple moldings, and the walls and ceilings are finished with plaster. The main entrance to Agriculture Hall opens onto a landing from which a straight stair with gray terrazzo steps descends to the basement, while on either side two curvilinear marble staircases ascend to a spacious hall on the piano nobile. In the hall a balcony with two Ionic columns overlooks the main entrance, and the ceiling is enriched with dentils and foliated consoles. North of the hall is the main staircase, a wooden double dog-leg stair which begins as one stair and turns, at right

angles, into two. The single stair is framed with two Ionic columns on the first floor, and with two paneled wood pillars at the second and third floors. The octagon houses a two-story auditorium on the upper floors with seating capacity for 700, and built-in wooden chairs, a wood balcony, and wood floors. At basement level the octagon and flanking sections originally housed the library and are now utilized as drafting rooms by the Department of Landscape Architecture, whose offices and classrooms are located in the basement. The administrative offices of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, formerly the College of Agriculture, are located on the first floor. On the second floor are offices for the Agricultural Experiment Station, International Agriculture Programs, and Program Development, as well as the School of Natural Resources and the Environmental Resources Unit. The departments of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology are in residence on the third floor.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places eligible? no

date 1984 state survey

depository State Historical Society of Wisconsin
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1903 [16] **Builder/Architect** John T. W. Jennings [16]

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Period of Significance: 1903-1935

The University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture was established in 1889,[1] and has earned an international reputation for excellence in many fields. The development of the College of Agriculture can be divided into two periods, the first associated with Dean William Arnon Henry, the second with Dean Harry Luman Russell. Henry was appointed first dean of the College of Agriculture in 1889.[2] His administration represents the pioneering era in the development of the college. During this era, research and extension were emphasized, and the college gained prominence in dairy science, agricultural physics, and horticulture. Research quickly became the basis of the university's contribution to agriculture, combining scientific investigations with practical applications in an effort to gain the confidence of the state's farmers. Extension served to disseminate the information gathered, through the Farmers' Institutes, highly popular two-day traveling workshops. Henry also initiated the Short Course in Agriculture (1886) and the Dairy Course (1890), each a twelve-week winter session, held during farming's slowest season to enable farmers to attend the university.[3] Both courses were influential, attracting farm youth from all over the state, and were much imitated throughout the United States and abroad. The success of the courses demonstrated that in order to attract students, agricultural education needed to be practical, and geared toward the interests of farm youth. This experience led Dean Russell to reorganize the four-year Bachelor of Science course, which had suffered from a lack of students during Henry's tenure. Russell was appointed dean in 1907.[4] Under his administration, the construction of buildings for the College of Agriculture diminished, while extension was enlarged, research diversified, and the teaching program grew steadily, with the addition of many new subjects and departments. New ground was broken in such fields as bacteriology, plant pathology, genetics, and the economic and social aspects of farming. Through Russell's efforts, the modern College of Agriculture was established.

Currently only one building associated with the College of Agriculture is listed on the National Register; the Agricultural Dean's Residence (1897). Eight others are in the process of being nominated; six from Henry's administration, and two from Russell's. These buildings are Hiram Smith Hall (1892), King Hall (1894), the Dairy Barn (1897), the Horse Barn (1899), the Agricultural Heating Station (1901, also known as the Agricultural Bulletin Building), Agriculture Hall (1903), the Stock Pavilion (1908), and Agricultural Chemistry (1912, also known as Biochemistry).

Agriculture Hall has significance at the state level in association with contributions made to education and science by the College of Agriculture. The building symbolizes the college, which has earned an international reputation in many fields of agricultural education and research, and is also significant for its association with the contributions made to education and science by the first two deans of the College of Agriculture, William Arnon Henry and Harry Luman Russell, and by the Department of Agricultural Economics and the Department of Genetics, each the first in the nation. Agriculture Hall

9. Major Bibliographical References

Madison Past and Present, 1852-1902. Madison, WI: Wisconsin State Journal, 1902.
Curti, Merle and Vernon Carstensen. The University of Wisconsin: The History 1848-1925. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1949.
Glover, Wilbur H. Farm and College. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin, 1952.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ~~less than two~~ 2.61 a. (PLUSIGNAN)

Quadrangle name Madison West **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	303960	477182 0	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Part of the SW¼ of Section 15, Township 7N, Range 9E, City of Madison, Wisconsin. A parcel of land on Linden Dr., beginning 470' east if the north-east corner of Linden and Babcock Drives, extending 285'N, 288'E, 97'S, 83'E, 55'S, 270'SE, and 612'W back to point of origin. (see sketch map.)

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title E. L. Miller, Research Technician

organization State Historical Soceity of Wisconsin **date** Oct. 1984

street & number 816 State Street **telephone** (608) 262-2971

city or town Madison **state** Wisconsin

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___x_ 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 DIRECTOR OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION **date** JAN. 29, 1985

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register **date** 3-14-85

for Keeper of the National Register

Attest: **date**

Chief of Registration

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1983 O - 419-311

is architecturally significant (locally) as well. Designed by John T. W. Jennings, the first professionally educated Supervising Architect of the University of Wisconsin, Agriculture Hall represents one of his finest works.

Education and Science

Since its completion in 1903, Agriculture Hall has served as the main hall of the College of Agriculture at the University of Wisconsin. The college and its faculty have earned an international reputation for excellence, and many graduates have distinguished themselves in various fields. The prominence of the University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture can be credited in large part to the first two deans, William Arnon Henry, under whose leadership the college was founded, and Harry Luman Russell, who organized the modern college and established several new departments, including the departments of Agricultural Economics, and Genetics.

William Arnon Henry (1850-1932) was born in Norwalk, Ohio, and educated at Cornell University. In 1880, the University of Wisconsin hired Henry to teach botany and agriculture, and direct the experimental farm. At the time there was no Department of Agriculture at the university, nor were there any students. In order to build the agriculture program, Henry traveled around the state demonstrating innovations developed at the experimental farm, trying to gain the acceptance of the state's farmers and urging them to send their sons to study agriculture at the university. Due to his efforts, the Department of Agriculture was organized in 1887, and in 1889 Henry was named first dean of the newly formed College of Agriculture. During his tenure as dean (1889-1907), Henry persuaded the State Legislature to grant funding for the construction of many of the buildings which still dominate the agricultural campus, among them Agriculture Hall. Henry maintained an office in Agriculture Hall until his resignation in 1907.[5]

The second dean of the College of Agriculture, Harry Luman Russell (1866-1954) was born in Poynette, Wisconsin, and educated at the University of Wisconsin and Johns Hopkins University. He was hired as a bacteriologist at the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station (formerly the Experimental Farm) in 1893. Russell played a large role in establishing the prestige of agricultural research at the university, making significant contributions to the field of medical bacteriology, dairy science and public health. Russell served as dean from 1907 until 1931, and due largely to his influence, the University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture came to serve as a model for other research-minded agricultural colleges throughout the United States. Russell reorganized the curriculum of the College of Agriculture in 1907, and during his tenure established many new departments, including forestry, wildlife management, poultry husbandry, agricultural economics, plant pathology, genetics, bacteriology, and agricultural journalism.[6]

The Department of Agricultural Economics has been in residence in Agriculture Hall since its founding in 1909. It was the first such department in the nation, established by the first professor of agricultural economics in the United States, Henry Charles Taylor.[7] Taylor is regarded as the father of agricultural economics.[8] Born in Stockport, Iowa, Taylor (1873-1969) was educated at Iowa State College.[9] Upon completing his Ph.D. at

the University of Wisconsin in 1902, Taylor studied in Germany, developing his theory of crop selection under competitive and non-competitive conditions, one of his major contributions to the theory of agricultural economics. Taylor codified the methods and objectives of agricultural economics and was the author of the first American textbook on the subject, A Syllabus of Lectures in Agricultural Economics (1902), as well as authoring An Introduction to the Study of Agricultural Economics (1905), and Agricultural Economics (1919), among others. In 1911 Taylor hired Charles Josiah Galpin (1864-?) as assistant professor of agricultural economics. Galpin was among the first rural sociologists in the country; his study of rural communities in Walworth County, Wisconsin, in 1911 established a model for other rural community studies.[10] Born in Hamilton, New York, and educated at Colgate and Harvard Universities, Gaplin authored Rural Life (1918), Rural Social Problems (1924) and My Drift into Rural Sociology (1938).[11] Taylor and Galpin departed the university in 1919 to take up posts with the United States Department of Agriculture, as Chief of Farm Management and Farm Economics, and Chief of the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, respectively. Benjamin Horace Hibbard succeeded Taylor as head of the Department of Agricultural Economics in 1919. Hibbard (1870-1955) was born in Bremer County, Iowa, educated at Iowa State College, and earned a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin, graduating in 1902. Hibbard directed the Department of Economics at Iowa State College from 1902 until 1913, when he came to Wisconsin as a professor of agricultural economics. Through his collaboration with Taylor, a program of research and graduate instruction in agricultural economics was developed at the University of Wisconsin that was to have great influence upon the field of agricultural economics both in the United States and abroad. Hibbard was recognized as the leading authority on agrarian movements in the United States, and also investigated land problems and policies. He authored Marketing Agricultural Products (1921), History of Public Land Policies (1924), and Agricultural Economics (1948). Hibbard was director of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Wisconsin from 1919 until 1932, and retired in 1940.

The Department of Genetics, the first organized in the United States, was housed in Agriculture Hall for the first ten years of its existence.[13] It was established as the Department of Experimental Breeding under the direction of associate professor Leon Jacob Cole, with the assistance of one half-time graduate student. Cole (1877-1948) was born in Allegany, New York, and educated at the University of Michigan and Harvard University.[14] Upon his arrival at Wisconsin in 1910, Cole initiated a program of theoretical research to enable the development of broad scientific rules which might be utilized for practical breeding purposes. The department maintained breeding service records, and studied inheritance in cattle through cross breeding experiments. Investigation into plant genetics began in 1913, resulting in important contributions in the hybridization of corn, as well as improved varieties of barley, oats, soybeans, and sweet clover.[15] In 1918 the name was changed to the Department of Genetics, and in 1920 the department removed to another building.[16]

ARCHITECTURE

Overlooking the agricultural campus from its perch on Observatory Hill, Agriculture Hall symbolizes the College of Agriculture and serves as the focal point of the Henry Mall

boulevard to the south. Agriculture Hall, built in 1903, is a fine example of Beaux Arts Classicism, incorporating such elements as a projecting entrance pavilion with a colossal portico, a rusticated raised basement and piano nobile, and exuberant classical ornamentation. Eclectic details are apparent in the floral cresting, derived from the Tudor Revival style, and the red tile roof, perhaps a Spanish Mission style influence.

John T. W. Jennings (1856-?) was born in Brooklyn, New York, and educated at New York University in civil engineering, graduating in 1877.[17] Jennings was first employed in the architect's office of the Astor Estate, and later briefly served as Chief Engineer of the New York Suburban Transit Road.[18] He was Assistant Engineer of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul railroad in Chicago from 1883 to 1885, and Architect of the railroad from 1885 to 1893.[19] Jennings thereafter conducted a private practice in Chicago until 1899, when he moved to Madison to take up the post of Supervising Architect of the University of Wisconsin, a position in which he continued until 1905, when he left the university and established an architectural partnership in Madison with Ferdinand Kronenberg.[20] While at the university, Jennings was responsible for the design and execution of some ten buildings, most on the College of Agriculture campus, among them the Horticulture and Agricultural Physics building (also known as King Hall, 1894-96), the Dairy Barn (1897), the Horse Barn (1899), and the Agricultural Heating Station (1901).[21]

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[1] Merle Curti and Vernon Carstensen, The University of Wisconsin: The History 1849-1925, (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1949), II:376.

[2] Ibid.

[3] Ibid., II:375.

[4] Ibid., II:400.

[5] A. S. Alexander, "William Arnon Henry: Educator--Seer--Farm Leader," Stencil Circular #151 (Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1934), p. 3.

[6] Edward H. Beardsley, Harry L. Russell and Agricultural Science in Wisconsin, (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1969), pp. vii, 4-12, 19.

[7] The National Cyclopedia of American Biography, (NY: James T. White and Co., 1938), E:282.

[8] Merle Curti and Vernon Carstensen, The University of Wisconsin: The History 1848-1925, (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1949), II:421.

[9] The National Cyclopedia of American Biography, (NY: James T. White and Co., 1938), E:282.

[10] Marvin A. Schaars, "The Story of the Department of Agricultural Economics 1909-1972," (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin, 1972), p. 3.

[11] Who Was Who in America, (Chicago: A.N. Marquis Co., 1968), 4:343.

[12] The National Cyclopedia of American Biography, (NY: James T. White and co., 1961), 43:142.

[13] Department of Genetics, "Outline of the History of the Department of Genetics," (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin, 1941), p. 1.

[14] Who Was Who in America, (Chicago: A.N. Marquis Co., 1950), 2:122.

[15] Merle Curti and Vernon Carstensen, op.cit., II:418-419.

[16] Gordon D. Orr, ed. "Perspectives of a University," (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin, 1978), p. 112.

AGRICULTURE HALL
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MADISON, WISCONSIN
SCALE: 1 INCH = 100 FEET