

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**DATA SHEET**

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED **AUG 24 1976**  
DATE ENTERED **DEC 18 1976**

**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  
**Stevens Point State Normal School**

AND/OR COMMON  
**Old Main, University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point**

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
**2100 Main Street**

CITY, TOWN  
**Stevens Point**

STATE  
**Wisconsin**

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF  
**55**

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**7th**

COUNTY  
**Portage**

CODE  
**097**

**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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
**State of Wisconsin, University of Wisconsin System**

STREET & NUMBER  
**1930 Monroe Street**

CITY, TOWN  
**Madison**

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

**Wisconsin 53701**

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
**Portage County Courthouse, County-City Building**

STREET & NUMBER  
**1516 Church Street**

CITY, TOWN  
**Stevens Point**

STATE

**Wisconsin 54481**

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
**Wisconsin's Historic Preservation Plan, Volume II: The Inventory**

DATE  
**1973**

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
**State Historical Society of Wisconsin**

CITY, TOWN  
**Madison**

STATE

**Wisconsin 53706**

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Old Main at the University of Wisconsin--Stevens Point was built in 1894. As it stood at that time, it was a two-and-one-half-story, hip-roofed, symmetrical building in the Italian Renaissance style, divided into three masses. The center mass projects from the flankers and the south (main) facade is framed by two, square, three-story corner towers. The building rests on a high, rock-fashed ashlar base. The first story is faced with brick rustication, and the second story has a smooth brick facing. String courses separate the floors and link the sills and lintels of the second-story windows.

All first-story windows have round arches, while second-story windows are rectangular. The second-story windows of the central mass have pediments, however. The third stories of the towers are open, with each facade divided into three parts by Ionic columns. Surmounting the roof of the center bay is a slender cupola. The entrances to the building are located in the central mass and at the ends of the flanking wings. Each entrance has round, terra cotta arches. The rear elevation reflects the style and massing of the main (south) facade.

In 1901 and 1914-15, identical two-and-one-half-story wings adhering to the style of the original building were added, respectively, to the west and east ends of the building. At the time of the 1901 (west) addition, new roofs and dormers were added to the original flankers, and a half-story was added to the main facade of the center mass. The windows of this new story are square and framed with terra cotta.

The interior of the building has been remodeled on several occasions. At present the basement and first two floors are used for administrative offices and classrooms. The third floor has been closed off.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1894; 1901; 1914-15

~~BUILDER~~/ARCHITECT

D. H. Perkins & Geo. W. Selby

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

An act of the state legislature in 1891 authorized the establishment of a sixth state normal school in Wisconsin, and besides Stevens Point, a number of communities in central, north, and northeastern Wisconsin soon became contenders for selection as the school's location. Nearby Wausau was the strongest contender, but "Judge Byron D. Park of Stevens Point, a member of the state board of Normal School Regents, was instrumental in bringing the coveted prize to Stevens Point..."<sup>1</sup> The contract for construction was awarded in late 1893 and the school opened September 17, 1894 with part of the building still under construction.<sup>2</sup>

In numerous ways, Stevens Point Normal was to become a landmark institution in Wisconsin's educational system. In July 1902, the Board resolved that a domestic science or home economics department be established at Stevens Point, "making Wisconsin one of the first states to recognize the value of domestic science in the training of young women. A two-year course was established, open to high school graduates or the equivalent thereof. A high school graduate who completed the two-year Domestic Science course was considered qualified to teach the general subjects in high school and domestic science."<sup>3</sup> Also during its formative years, the school's interest lay strongly in rural education. This became formalized with the development of a rural education department ca. 1915.<sup>4</sup> In later years, when the school was best known as Central State College, it became the first college in the United States to offer a major in conservation.<sup>5,6,7</sup>

Old Main, the original building of the Stevens Point State Normal School, is the ancestor of what is now the University of Wisconsin--Stevens Point. As such it is the one building among the many now on campus which represents the most important historical tie to the university's origins. Its symbolic significance to the people of Stevens Point is therefore strong, and because of its location on a main thoroughfare, it is one of the city's best-known and most frequently seen landmarks. In addition it is one of the last intact, original old mains left in the older parts of the University of Wisconsin System.

1. History of the City of Stevens Point, p. 20
2. Wyman, History of the Wisconsin State Universities, p. 172
3. Ibid., p. 177
4. Ibid., p. 176
5. Ibid., pp. 188-189
6. History of the City of Stevens Point, p. 21
7. Anderson, "Portage--Gateway to the Pineries," p. 16

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.75

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	6
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2	9	5	8	7	0
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4	9	3	3	1	1	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 

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D 

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Donald N. Anderson, Historian & Registrar, Historic Preservation Division

ORGANIZATION

DATE

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

12 July 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

816 State Street

608/262-0746

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Madison

Wisconsin 53706

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

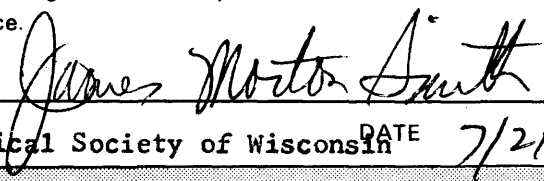
NATIONAL

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



TITLE

Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

7/21/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

12/12/76

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/6/76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED AUG 24 1976

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DEC 12 1976

See  
below

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

9. (Anderson, Donald N.), "Portage--Gateway to the Pineries," Badger History,  
13(3):14-16, Nov., 1959

Portage County Historical Society, A History of the City of Stevens Point,  
(Stevens Point, 1958), 20-21

Stevens Point Gazette, August 16, September 13, 27, October 24, 1893

Stevens Point Journal, February 24, April 28, August 4, 18, September 1, 15,  
22, 29, October 20, 1894; February 16, 1895

Wyman, Walker D., ed., History of the Wisconsin State Universities, (River Falls,  
1968), 169-198

11. Richard L. Cleary, Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

13 July 1976

816 State Street

608/262-2970

Madison

Wisconsin 53706