

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

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

For NPS use only
received **DEC 15 1983**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Old Main (Harstad Hall)
and/or common Harstad Hall

2. Location

street & number 9, Park Avenue South and Garfield Street not for publication
city, town Tacoma vicinity of
state Washington code 053 county Pierce code 053

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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	n/a	<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 Pacific Lutheran University, Inc.
street & number South 121st Street and Park Avenue South
city, town Tacoma vicinity of state Washington 98447

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pierce County Courthouse
street & number 930 Tacoma Avenue South
city, town Tacoma state Washington 98402

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Washington State Register
title of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date February 1983 federal state county local
depository for survey records Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
city, town Olympia state Washington 98504

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Begun in 1891 and open for classes in 1894, Harstad Hall is a large and impressive brick masonry building that dominates the campus of Pacific Lutheran University today in much the same manner as it did at the time of its construction. Located in the community of Parkland about six miles south of the center of Tacoma, it remains the most substantial historic structure in the vicinity.

Harstad Hall is a rigidly symmetrical building consisting of a central block of five stories with projecting four story wings to the north and south. Massive roofs add an additional two stories of height to Harstad Hall. The main entrance to the structure is through an arched portal on the east facade that is ornamented with radiating cast stone voussoirs.

The building's principle floor sits above an elevated basement level and is reached by a wide flight of stairs that descend from the entrance portal to the ground. Tall, flat-arch windows are regularly spaced across every elevation. The building is rather severe and few decorative elements enliven the facades. There is a corbelled belt course between the third and fourth floors and the elevated basement windows have vermiculated cast stone quoins. The roof, with its cascade of hipped forms penetrated by hipped dormers, contrasts with Harstad's plain walls and suggests that the architect's inspiration for the design lay with aspects of Jacobethan Revival styles then gaining popularity for college building.

Harstad Hall sits in a pleasant landscaped setting of lawns and trees. Other school buildings are nearby, but in age and scale, Harstad Hall is unique on the Pacific Lutheran University Campus. Changes to the building have been limited. The most notable is the absence of a large octagonal cupola and its surmounting steeple which was destroyed by fire in 1942. Earthquake damage resulted in the removal of several carefully executed chimney stacks, and now only those on the south wing survive. Recently, the original two-over-two double-hung sash were replaced with anodized aluminum sash on the ground and first floors, and plastic sash on the remaining floors; most of the new sash is triple track.

In the early 1960's a small singlestory brick addition was added to the west side of the building's north wing. This addition has a shingled mansard roof and functions as a recreation room for the dormitory. Interior changes have been few and the plan survives largely intact. Early in its occupancy, the building featured extensive stenciling on ceilings and the walls above the wainscot. An elevator was added in 1946, and in 1958, concrete stairwells were built on the north and south ends of the building. While some portions have been modernized, much of the decorative detail remains, and wainscoting, trim, and stairway elements recall the 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/ 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 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 1891 **Builder/Architect** August F. Heide

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Harstad Hall is significant as the premier building on the campus of Pacific Lutheran University, a major educational institution that evolved from an early academy dedicated to the educational and cultural needs of the region's Norwegian Lutherans. The structure is also one of the earliest large buildings in Pierce County, and it represents a sturdiness of design and a commitment to permanence that heralded the development of the area.

Designed by August F. Heide, construction began in 1891 and the building was first opened to students in 1894; the Rev. Dr. U.V. Koren, President of the Norwegian Synod of America, dedicated the structure in that same year. Timber--free of any blemishes or knots--came from the immediate area and was cut by a mill located on Clover Creek at the south end of the campus. The bricks were from Tacoma and the cedar shingles used on the roof were contributed by the Lutheran congregation in Stanwood, a community about 80 miles north. When completed, the building exhibited qualities of scale and design unmatched in its vicinity.

Harstad Hall was originally built to house the newly founded Pacific Lutheran Academy (PLA). The Academy was begun by Scandanavian immigrants who recognized the value of secondary education and the Academy provided the equivalent of a high school education. The Academy was also intended to serve as a cultural and religious center for the region's large Norwegian population. One author has noted that "the chief effect of the PLA effort up to 1920 was to preserve the customs of Norwegian Lutherans in the region through educating their children in the accepted religious and educational ideals. Norwegian was the common campus language until 1917. PLA also provided an "Americanization" of youth, through teaching English and social studies, that would facilitate adapting to the new country." Up until 1917, about one hundred students a year studied at PLA.

All of the functions of Pacific Lutheran Academy were housed in Harstad Hall. On the ground floor were two apartments, a dining hall and kitchen, a social hall, a dressing room, and a storage room for athletic activities. The first floor housed the library, administrative offices, three apartments, and classrooms. More classrooms occupied the center portion of the second floor; female students occupied the north wing of that floor and male students the south. The third floor was divided in half by a central partition, with women living on the north side and men on the south. The fourth and fifth floors were left unfinished. The building also had its own electric light plant.

In 1920, the Academy became Pacific Lutheran Junior College. By this date, the responsibilities for educating high school age students had passed to other institutions, and the school felt that it could best serve its community by shifting its focus to older students. This transformation increased the student body to approximately 200 in the late 1920's and 500 to 600 by 1940. The school continued to prosper and in 1960 was renamed Pacific Lutheran University.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Minutes, Meetings of the Board of Regents, Pacific Lutheran University, 1890 - present.
 Bulletin, Pacific Lutheran University, 1894 - 1920.
 "Herold," Pacific Lutheran University, 1890 - 1900.
 Schnackenberg, Walter C. The Lamp and the Cross, Pacific Lutheran University Press, 1965.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Tacoma South

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

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5	4	2	5	2	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification Harstad Hall occupies Pierce County parcel Nos. 31300-002-6 and 7 of Block 8 in the College Place to Lake Park Addition. These parcels occupy the south 260 feet of the north 360 feet of Block 8 less the west 325 feet thereof. Block 8 is located in the southwest quarter of Section 9, Township 19 North, Range 3 East,

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

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Based on information provided by Milton Nesvig, Vice President Emeritus

organization Pacific Lutheran University date February 1983

street & number South 121st St. & Park Ave. S. telephone

city or town Tacoma state Washington 98447

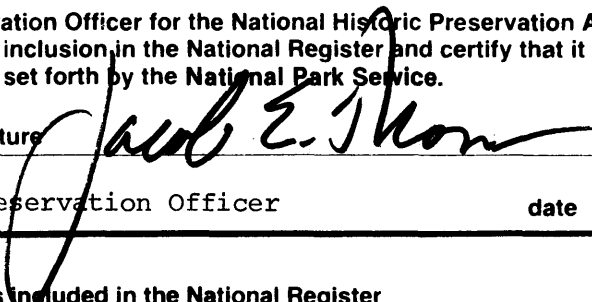
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 State Historic Preservation Officer

date December 5, 1983

For NPS use only

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



date

1/27/1984

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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As the Academy/College expanded, some of the functions occupying space in Harstad Hall moved to new facilities. A small gymnasium had been added to the west side of the building and was used until 1912 when a new gymnasium-classroom building was erected. This addition was remodeled and expanded in the 1960's. In 1937, the library moved to the newly completed Xavier Hall; ten years later, the social activities center moved to the new student union, which permitted the expansion of the dining hall. In the late 1940's, the fourth and fifth floor interiors were completed and the top four floors became a residence hall for women. The first floor was retained for administrative offices, and the ground floor housed the cafeteria and other facilities. In 1956, a new structure was put up for the institution's food service, and the vacated space in Harstad Hall was changed into dormitory rooms and a recreation area. In 1960, the administrative offices of the University were relocated to the newly completed Administration Building, and Harstad Hall became exclusively a residence hall at that time, save for a few offices on the ground and first floors.

Traditionally, Harstad Hall was referred to as "Old Main." In 1960, it was renamed Harstad Hall in honor of the Reverend Bjug Harstad (1848-1933), who founded the institution and was bishop of the Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church from 1893 to 1917.

At the time the building was erected, it was a solitary structure on a prairie marked by few roads and fewer houses. The school and the community of Parkland grew up around the big brick structure. Local athletic teams played on grounds adjacent to the building and used its dressing facilities, and it provided space for concerts, plays, and reception, acting in the best sense of a community center. It also housed the local Lutheran church until 1915 when the congregation built a separate facility across the street.

The close relationship between Harstad Hall and the Parkland community is still evident today in the siting of the building at the foot of Garfield Street, the "main street" of Parkland. Even more significantly, the building remains an imposing testament to the educational ambitions of Puget Sound's Norwegian community.

August F. Heide (1862-ca. 1943) was born in Alton, Illinois, the third of seven children of Henry and Hermina Heide, natives of Germany. He was educated in Alton public schools until, at the age of seventeen, he began the study of architecture as an apprentice. Afterwards, in Chicago, he is said to have taken instruction in architecture from "private teachers" for four or five years. Heide left for Los Angeles, California, in 1886 and spent three years with an architectural firm there, filling positions of foreman in the detail department and superintendent of construction. In 1889, he departed California for Tacoma, Washington, where he spent the next three years in independent practice. His projects during this time included Harstad Hall and the Tacoma Theatre. In 1892, Heide was attracted by the building boom in Everett, and he became the Everett Land Company's select architect for major commissions. Heide was chosen to prepare plans for the Washington State Building that was erected at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis in 1904 as well as the Washington Building at the Lewis and Clark Fair in Portland. Between 1901 and 1906, he joined in partnership with Seattle architect Emil de Neuf, with whom he collaborated on designs for an office building for J.D. Lowman and the Post-Intelligencer Building for John Erikson. Among Seattle residences executed by the firm were the Shingle Style residence of E.F. Blaine and the Colonial Revival residence

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of M.D. Ballard. During this period, the partners maintained concurrent professional listings in the Everett and Seattle directories. By the time of his short-lived association with Carl Siebrand, 1910-1911, Heide seems to have divided his time somewhat sporadically between Seattle and Everett. A number of Heide's commissions in Everett have been listed on the National Register including the Swalwell Block, the Everett Carnegie Library, and the Snohomish County Courthouse. A fourth structure attributed to Heide, the Marion Building, is listed on the State Register.

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Willamette Meridian. This is a legal boundary description for Harstad Hall and it does not include any other structures.