

PH0662640

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY DATA SHEET

RECEIVED FEB 10 1978

DATE ENTERED MAY 23 1978

**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

Grand View College (Old Main)

AND/OR COMMON

Old Main, Grand View College *with*

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1200 Grandview Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Des Moines

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Iowa

VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

Polk

CODE

153

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Grand View College

STREET & NUMBER

1200 Grandview Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Des Moines

STATE

Iowa 50316

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Business Office, Grand View College

STREET & NUMBER

1200 Grandview Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Des Moines

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Grand View College's Old Main consists of two identical wings flanking a central block, the three phases built between 1895 and 1904. A fourth section was added to the east end in 1929. Exterior walls are of red brick, laid in common bond, with details of stone and tellow brick. The main block and east addition are 3½ stories, the wings 2½. The principal feature of each section is a high, scrolled gable reminiscent of the Flemish Renaissance, which marks the central wall dormer on each wing, and forms the front gable ends of the two larger sections.

Each wing is 6 bays long. The segmental arched windows, which on first floor are plain, have on the second story yellow brick surrounds. The discrepancy is due to the fact that the first floor windows were originally hidden by long verandas. Each wing has a central wall dormer with scrolled gable and paired, round-arched windows with yellow brick surrounds. This feature is flanked by small frame roof dormers, with rectangular windows and hipped roofs. Attached to the extreme west end is a two-story, semidetached polygonal tower with a high, conical roof, which contains a stairwell and ground-floor entrance.

The roof ridge of the central block is at right angles to those of the wings. The scroll gable end contains a small stone shield and palladian window capped with stone lintel. A two-story protruding entrance pavilion contains a high, round-arched doorway set within a pointed arch of brick, laid to appear rusticated. Above this is a narrow cornice which forms a continuous sill for three plain windows. Single windows flank this pavilion the uppermost round-arched with keystones. Yellow brick quoining ends in short, corner pilasters with small caplets and grotesques.

The 1929 addition to the east end conforms, in a general sense, to the spirit of the rest of the building, but the detail is not carried through to the extent found in the earlier sections. Besides the scrolled parapet gable, this section does utilize the segmental arch, but only on the second story windows and the entrance -- and the surrounds are of red, rather than yellow, brick. All other windows are plain 1/1 sash. Yellow brick quoining (on the first story only), label molding over third floor windows, and the stone stringcourses help to tie this section visually to the rest of the building.

Almost no decorative detail is found on the east side and rear, where windows are plain or segmentally-arched, with narrow stone sills. Each wing has three rear roof dormers, similar to the small, hipped-roof dormers of the front. The two sections perpendicular to the wings end in plain parapet gables.

The interior of the building originally housed classroom, office, and dormitory space. With the growth of the college, dormitories are now in other buildings. Some rearrangement of rooms and remodelling has occurred over the years, so that no original furnishings remain and early wood floors and plastered, wainscoted walls are obscured with tile and panelling.

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 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 built 1895-1904; 1929

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Revival

This building is significant both for the Danish Renaissance elements in its architecture and for its historical position as Grand View College's first home.

Revival

The Danish Renaissance elements in the main facade seem to have been a conscious attempt to evoke the national heritage of its Danish founders.¹ The Danish influence is readily seen in the gable of the central pavilion, with its strapwork volutes and stringcourses, an attenuated semi-circular pediment at the apex, the similarly finished wall dormers of the side wings, and the gable end of the east pavilion, which, built after a fire in 1929, sought to be sympathetic to the earlier tracts of the building. It is strongly reminiscent of the architecture popularized by King Christian IV (b. 1577, crowned 1596, d. 1648), who was responsible for continuing and strengthening the influence of the Renaissance tradition of the Netherlands, apparent in Denmark from the mid 16th century, through his ambitious building programs. He imported and patronized Dutch architects, notably several members of the van Steenwinkel family. Gables of profile and detail strikingly similar to those at Grand View can be seen at Frederiksborg Castle (main buildings begun 1602, carried through the 1620's; attributed to Hans van Steenwinkel the elder and Hans van Steenwinkel the younger, under the close and avid supervision of the king), and at the Bourse in Copenhagen (1620-40, also a royal commission, the elder van Steenwinkel, architect).

The semi-detached stair towers at either end of Old Main (only the one at the west remaining), while directly inspired by almost identical features at the Belmont Seminary (Bedford, VA) are features often contained in Danish castles and manors of this and previous periods (at Frederiksborg they are a Gothic survival), and thus contribute to establishing the character of this Des Moines building. The rectangular mass standing in advance of the central pavilion and framed by the gable above is also a feature which may have been suggested by reference to Danish prototypes (see, for example, the north elevation of the main building of Frederiksborg).

Although the use of an imported style appears to have been a conscious attempt to establish a specific ethnic architectural identity at Grand View, this particular style was widespread in Europe, through the emigration of Dutch and Flemish architects, and architectural publications to Germany, Bohemia, England as well as Denmark. It became somewhat popular in the US in the late 19th century: Flemish Renaissance motifs are found on a variety of American buildings of the period, although utilized for less specific purposes than those of the planners of Grand View (e.g. Union Station, Richmond, VA; Napoleon Le Brun & Sons' New York City firehouses of the 1880's and 1890's; and much residential construction in larger cities).

See continuation sheet

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hansen, Thorvald. We Laid the Foundation Here...: The Early History of Grand View College. Des Moines: Grand View College, 1972.

Faber, Tobias. A History of Danish Architecture (Frederick R. Stevenson, trans.). Copenhagen: Det Danske Selskab, n.d.

Skovgaard, Joakim A. A King's Architecture: Christian IV and his Buildings. London: Hugh Evelyn, Ltd., 1973.

Letter, Katherine E. Hundt, Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, to M.H. Bowers, Iowa Division of Historic Preservation, August 22, 1977.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY APPROX. 2 acres (immediate area of building, only)

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	4,4,9,6,7,0	4,6,0,7,6,3,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Ruth McHone, Public Relations

Samuel J. Klinensmith, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Grand View College

Div. Historic Preservation

STREET & NUMBER

1200 Grandview Ave.

26 East Market Street

CITY OR TOWN

Des Moines 50316

Iowa City 52240

Iowa

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

Shirley A. Anderson

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE 1-30-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: *Katherine E. Hundt*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5-23-78
 DATE 5-12-78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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FEB 20 1978
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Grand View College, Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Grand View College, a private institution of higher learning, was planned in 1893 and opened in 1896 under the auspices of the Danish Evangelical Church in America. When first proposed, the college was intended primarily as a theological seminary; however, members of the Church convention at Racine, Wisconsin in 1894 decided a liberal arts college would better serve a principal concern of the church, which was the increasing Americanization of Danish youth in the US, and their concomitant loss of interest in the Danish Church and culture.

In determining the location of the college, the Danish Church received offers from several communities, including Sioux City and Atlantic, Iowa, and Chicago. An offer from D.H. Kooker's Grand View Land Company (a Des Moines real estate development firm) was finally accepted, although during the 1890's there were only about 200 Danish-born people in the city, and no organized Danish church. However, the few Danes in the city felt strong ties to the Danish church, among them local businessman Mikkel Lauritsen and bacteriologist Jens Christian Bay, who may have been acquainted with Kooker and instrumental in the latter's decision to offer land for the proposed college.

The form of the college's first building was determined by a church-appointed committee, headed by Racine carpenter and builder Marinus Jensen, which took the basic plan of the Belmont Seminary in Virginia and to it added architectural elements from the Danish Renaissance building forms of their homeland. The school opened in 1896, with one student; the number rose to 34 the second semester. Instruction was largely non-sectarian, though conducted only in Danish, and the major courses were in theology and teacher-training. The liberal arts curriculum was specifically designed to maintain and transmit elements of Danish culture and tradition, to Danish-born students and to student born in Danish communities in the US. In spite of this, the name "Danish Church's School" was rejected by the college staff as suggesting too strongly the ethnic and religious orientation of the institution; it was known unofficially for many years as Grand View College before the name was formally adopted.

During the 20th century Grand View developed into a private, 2-year junior college, the Danish language and orientation gradually waning. As enrollment has grown, the area served (originally Danish communities throughout the country) has decreased. Most students are now commuters living in Des Moines.

¹Hansen, p. 134, n. 33. This note cites an article in Dannevirke, November 1898, which presumably mentions explicitly the desire to emulate Danish Renaissance prototypes.