

PH 36147x

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 9 1976
DATE ENTERED APR 11 1977

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

Ambrose Hall

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

518 West Locust

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Davenport

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Iowa

CODE

Scott

CODE

163

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

St. Ambrose College

STREET & NUMBER

518 West Locust

CITY, TOWN

Davenport

VICINITY OF

Iowa

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Scott County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Davenport

Iowa

STATE

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

Ambrose Hall, built in 5 phases from 1885 to 1918, is about 300 feet long and 75-100 feet deep. It is a "pragmatic adaptation" of the Second Empire style, each 3-story section conforming to the others in design and essential decorative features. The front facade consists of irregularly projecting pavilions which relieve the immense length of the building and contribute to its Picturesque appearance.

Several features are common to all sections of Ambrose Hall. Windows and doorways have rounded arches, with stone hoodmolds and keystones, and 1/1 or 2/2 lights in varying sizes. A stone stringcourse runs between the first and second stories of all but the earliest, "Tower" section. Decorative brick corbelling runs the length of the structure below the cornice.

Although at first glance, the sections of the building seem quite similar, a certain variety of detail and some unfortunate modern changes identify each building phase quite explicitly. The oldest section (1885-7) is a symmetrical structure, 7 bays wide with a central pavilion capped by a mansard tower. It is constructed of smooth rusticated ashlar on the ground floor level and brick above, with quoining. The original diamond shingles, gabled dormers and decorative cornice were replaced in the early 1960's with modern windows, asphalt shingles and severely plain cornice.

The second phase (1893) was added to the east. It is five bays wide with a projecting central pavilion, and is connected to the 1885 portion by a 3-bay, recessed section. Its windows, doors and brickwork are identical to that of the Tower section, but it is brick from the ground up. Alterations to the mansard roof are also like those of the Tower section.

The third phase (1901) was added to the west end of the building. Its design and decoration are original. It is asymmetrical, consisting of two symmetrical sections joined together, 3 and 5½ bays wide, respectively, with a central pavilion. The mansard roof is covered in diamond-shaped shingles of slate, and has simply-curved bargeboarding on the gabled dormers. The roof of the pavilion is raised slightly, and has a decorative cornice beneath an iron balustrade. Cornicework on this section is elaborate, with a Victorian variation of the dentil. Of particular interest are the tracery windows in the third story, which mark the chapel. The two smaller, hexafoil windows are set into the brick gable segmental dormers. The central pavilion has a chapel window, consisting of a dyptich of trefoil windows surmounted by an octafoil window and enclosed in a segmental dormer. The west side of this section has a three-level, flatroofed brick porch which extends to about the middle of the third story. The ground and first floor levels are contained in elliptical arched openings with a wood spindle balustrade. The roof is edged with elaborate wrought-ironwork. The mansard roof on this facade features a tryptich of semicircular arched windows beneath a gambrel-roofed dormer. It is set between two smaller gabled dormer and there is a corbelled chimney to the left rear.

The fourth addition (1908) did not conform in design to the rest of the structure, having some simplified Colonial Revival suggestions in its design. To remedy this, a fifth addition was made in 1912 to the front facade of the fourth addition, solely for the purpose of bringing this section into conformity. It retains the original cornice, diamond shingles and dormers, as well as the window shapes, pavilion and stringcourse typical of the other sections.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1885; 1893; 1901; 1908; 1910 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Victor Huot, Davenport, Iowa

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ambrose Hall is a singularly impressive example of the application of the Second Empire style to the practicality of an academic building. The alterations are generally unobtrusive, and do not violate the pragmatic approach and character of the structure.*

The continuity exhibited in the various additions to the first simple building which was Ambrose Hall is a physical reflection of the continuity in quality and purpose of the College itself. St. Ambrose College was founded in 1882 by the Rt. Rev. John McMullen, first bishop of Davenport. Although formally incorporated as a "seminary" in 1885, the school never was considered a training ground exclusively for future priests. From the beginning, St. Ambrose was a "Catholic school for advanced studies", which included courses in the humanities, sciences and in business as well as theological studies. In a sense, this liberal arts curriculum was a pioneer in its day, allowing future priests to live and work with young men who might one day be their parishioners, rather than cloistering them at an early age away from the people and ideas with which they would have to deal as priests.

This philosophy holds today as well. The name was changed in 1908 to St. Ambrose College, to emphasize the broad nature of the institution's offerings. A high school, which had been formed as part of the original college, functioned until 1958. The steady growth of St. Ambrose, so well reflected in the massive wings of Ambrose Hall, has since overwhelmed this main building, and the college today boasts a number of other, newer buildings, including a women's residence hall, astronomical observatory, and classroom and laboratory buildings.

Ambrose Hall itself has seen a variety of activities within its walls over the years since 1885. One or another part of it has been used as classrooms, dormitory, chapel, faculty residence, offices, student union, and even for laundry and dining facilities.

Ambrose Hall has particular significance for the priests and people of the Diocese of Davenport, which includes 22 counties in southeast Iowa, since it was financed by them and has served their educational needs over the years. Nearly every priest of the diocese is a graduate of St. Ambrose College and most of them return to the College several times each year for workshops and retreats. Ambrose Hall remains the heart of the college for them.

*A noteworthy design feature of the building is that the first 3 sections were designed at the same time by architect Victor Huot. The College clearly expected to expand its facilities in future years, and thus arranged to have designs for two additional sections (besides the original Tower portion) on hand when the occasion for expansion eventually arose.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hauber, Msgr. U.A., Oaks and Acorns. St. Ambrose College, 1956.
 Dawson, William F. The Early Years of St. Ambrose College. Unpublished M.A. Thesis, the St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1956.
 The Ambrosian; Ambrosian Oaks, the Ambrosian Alumnus (periodical publications of St. Ambrose College)
 The Catholic Messenger (newspaper of the diocese).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A | 15 | 701800 | 4601190
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D | | | | | | | | | | | |
 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

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Rev. William F. Dawson (Assoc. Prof. of Philosophy) / Fr. George McDaniel (Associate

ORGANIZATION Director of Development

DATE

St. Ambrose College

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

518 West Locust Street

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Davenport

Iowa.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___

STATE ___

LOCAL X

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 D. Anderson

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

11/2/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

CHIEF *[Signature]*
 DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

4/11/77

ATTEST:

[Signature]

DATE

3-18-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER