

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Augsburg Old Main

and/or common Augsburg Seminary

2. Location

street & number 731 21st Avenue South N/A not for publication

city, town Minneapolis N/A vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state Minnesota code 22 county Hennepin 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 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	<u>N/A</u> 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 Augsburg College

street & number 731 Twenty-first Avenue South

city, town Minneapolis N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds, Hennepin County Government Center

street & number 300 South Sixth Street

city, town Minneapolis state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal N/A state N/A county N/A local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u> N/A </u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Augsburg Old Main building is located at 725 Twenty-first Avenue South at the southwest corner of the Augsburg College Campus. The college is an integral part of the residential Minneapolis Community in which it is located.

The building was designed by the St. Paul architectural firm of Didrik A. Omeyer and Martin P. Thori. C. F. Haglin was the building contractor. The rectangular structure, measuring 95' X 126', was constructed in 1901 at a cost of \$35,000.00. Large and symmetrical in massing proportions, the building creates a feeling of harmony and simplicity characteristic of the classical architectural style.

The two storey building sits upon a raised basement. The principal facade has a projecting entry bay with a pedimented gable. The main entrance is set into a portico which is flanked by red granite columns. The portico forms an open balcony above the entrance bay which is ornamented by a series of windows set into arch brick surrounds flanked by ionic pilasters. Windows are rectangular with those on the first level set in brick arches whose upper portions are filled with terra cotta ornament. All original sashes have been replaced with energy efficient fixed lights.

On the west facade terra cotta panels separate the windows of the old gymnasium from those of the chapel. A terra cotta cornice projects over the center group of first storey windows on the east facade.

The rear entrance is recessed between brick columns, flanked by brick pilasters. Above the entrance is a small balcony.

The building is capped by a low hip slate roof.

The harmonious character of the exterior ornamentation is reflected in the building's interior. The lighted torch design of the exterior terra cotta panels is repeated on the inside of the building.

The original chapel, which now houses the art department, reflects classic simplicity in its design. Fluted pilasters, with ionic capitals and elaborate entablature, provide a frame for the recessed platform at the rear of the chapel. Above the capitals, an architrave continues around the circular alcove. The base of the vaulted ceiling is formed by a broad cornice which continues around the room's perimeter. The cornice design is a sequence of alternating symbolic figures of shield and lighted torch.

The front and rear entrance landings open onto a flight of stairs leading to the first floor hallway. Stairways to the right and left in the building's rear lead to the basement. The old chapel and gymnasium below occupy the entire northwest corner of the building and are, therefore, offset from the main floor levels. Flooring material consists primarily of hard pine. Woodwork on the upper two floors is of red oak. Stairs and railings, leading to the second storey at the rear of the building, are constructed of iron. The second storey hallway is lighted by a skylight which transmits light through to the first floor below through twelve large plate glass panels set into the second storey floor.

See Continuation Sheet, Page 5.

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 checked="" 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 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 1901 **Builder/Architect** Didrik A. Omeyer, Martin P. Thori,

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Architects; C. F. Haglin, Builder.

The Augsburg Old Main building is significant for its survival integrity and for its importance to the community as an education institution. Built at a time when Augsburg operational procedure was found lacking, the "New Main" building, constructed in 1901, boosted morale and strengthened ties between Augsburg leaders and the surrounding Scandinavian Community. The "New Main" evoked a prideful optimism in Augsburg Seminary as a viable educational institution. The "New Main" has withstood the test of time and today has become Old Main, the oldest building on the Augsburg campus. The building remains virtually unaltered from its original design and is a source of pride shared by the college and the surrounding community. It has never lost its architectural integrity, its historical integrity or its educational integrity as a center for campus activity.

Augsburg Seminary, founded in 1869, was the first seminary begun by Norwegian Lutherans in America. Temporarily established at Marshall, Wisconsin, the theological school moved to Minneapolis in 1872. Augsburg Seminary began as three integral departments. One unit of the school consisted of a preparatory school which later became known as Augsburg Academy. A second division provided a training school for Lutheran ministers. This later became known as Augsburg College. The third department served as a three year theological school and became known as Augsburg Theological Seminary. These three divisions, united together, provided the seminary with a unique synthesis - overall educational integrity.

Over the years the educational focus of the seminary has changed. In 1933 the high school preparatory department was closed. Thirty years later, in 1963, the seminary left the campus and merged with Luther Seminary in St. Paul. Today, Augsburg College is a private four year Liberal Arts College affiliated with the American Lutheran Church.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Chrislock, Carl H. From Fjord to Freeway. Minneapolis: Augsburg College, 1969.

Mindeblade om Indvielsen af Augsburg Seminariums Nye Bygning. Minneapolis: Augsburg Seminary, 1902.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name St. Paul West

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A

1	5	4	8	10	9	4	10	4	9	7	8	9	6	10
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing			

C

Zone		Easting				Northing			

D

Zone		Easting				Northing			

E

Zone		Easting				Northing			

F

Zone		Easting				Northing			

G

Zone		Easting				Northing			

H

Zone		Easting				Northing			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is described as follows:

All of Lots 7 and 9, excluding any portion of the tunnel entrance situated on Lot 9, and all but the easterly 5 feet of Lot 8 Block 10 Murphy's addition.

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

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Camille Kudzia/Liz Holum

organization City of Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission

date January 1982

street & number 210 City Hall

telephone 612-348-6655

city or town Minneapolis

state Minnesota

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley

title Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

date 8/30/83

For HCRS use only

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

date 10/6/83

Keuper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Augsburg Old Main, Minneapolis, Hennepin County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 5

The interior of the building has been somewhat altered with the addition of a stairway and an entrance to an underground tunnel at the northwest corner of the basement. Some of the original classrooms have been enlarged, encroaching on interior hall space. Hardware has also been modernized.

The building is in excellent condition and, with the exception of minor alterations, has retained its architectural integrity throughout.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Augsburg Old Main in Hennepin
County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 83003653

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Hennepin

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): New Main, Augsburg Seminary

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date