

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 95000466

Date Listed: 5/4/95

Wakefield Hall
Property Name

Ashland
County

WI
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Boland

Signature of the Keeper

5/10/95

Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The nomination places the Virginia Wakefield Hall (George Washington Birthplace National Monument) in Wakefield County, which is incorrect. Virginia's Wakefield Hall is in Westmoreland County, VA. Also, the nomination state's that Wisconsin's Wakefield Hall was modeled after the "original" Wakefield Hall in Virginia, when the building was modeled after the 1939 brick "reconstruction" (which was not an accurate replica). Undoubtedly, the nomination means the to distinguish the WI from the VA buildings through the term "original," but the original Virginia building was frame according to this nomination. These corrections were approved by Jim Draeger of the Wisconsin SHPO staff.

DISTRIBUTION:

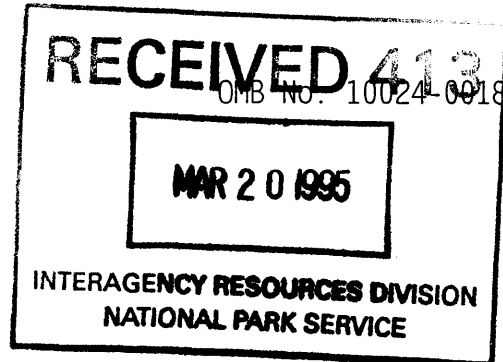
- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

4666

NPS Form 10-900
(January 1992)

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Wakefield Hall

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

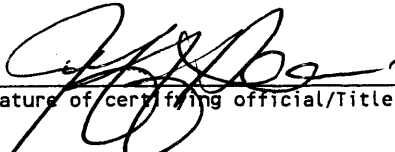
street & number 1409 Ellis Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Ashland N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Ashland code 003 zip code 54806

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official/Title

3/10/95
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer-WI
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Wakefield Hall, Northland College Ashland, Wisconsin
 Name of Property County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: Beth Boland Date of Action: 5/4/95

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include listed resources within the count)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site		buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		sites
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		structures
			objects
			Total
			<u>1</u> <u>0</u>

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>EDUCATION/college</u>	<u>EDUCATION/college</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/Colonial Revival</u>	foundation <u>concrete</u>
_____	walls <u>brick</u>
_____	roof <u>asphalt</u>
_____	other <u>stone</u>
_____	<u>concrete</u>

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Wakefield Hall, Northland College
Name of Property

Ashland, Wisconsin
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the
criteria qualifying the property for the
National Register listing.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from
instructions)
Architecture

A Property is associated with events
that have made a significant
contribution to the broad patterns of
our history.

B Property is associated with the lives
of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive
characteristics of a type, period, or
method of construction or represents
the work of a master, or possesses
high artistic values, or represents a
significant and distinguishable entity
whose components lack individual
distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to
yield, information important in
prehistory or history.

Period of Significance

1940-41¹

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is
marked above)

N/A

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or
used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or
structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age achieved
significance within the past 50 years.

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Shefchik, Thomas Duluth, Minn.²

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

¹Nathaniel B. Dexter, Northland College. A History. (Ashland, Wisconsin: Northland College), 1968, 160; Plans for Wakefield Hall (then called Memorial Library), by Thomas J. Shefchik, owned by Northland College, dated 1940.

²Ibid.

Wakefield Hall, Northland College
Name of Property

Ashland, Wisconsin
County and State

Previous Documentation on File (NPS):
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State Agency
 Federal Agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>1/5</u>	<u>6/6/2/9/3/0</u>	<u>5/1/6/0/5/5/0</u>	3	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>	4	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

___ see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By _____

name/title Rebecca Sample Bernstein, Consultant
organization for Northland College date March 15, 1994
street & number 309 Norris Court telephone (608) 251-4615
city or town Madison state WI zip code 53703

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Wakefield Hall, Northland College
Name of Property

Ashland, Wisconsin
County and State

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Northland College (c/o Harvey Haukaas)
street & number 1411 Ellis Avenue telephone (715) 682-1231
city or town Ashland state WI zip code 54806

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

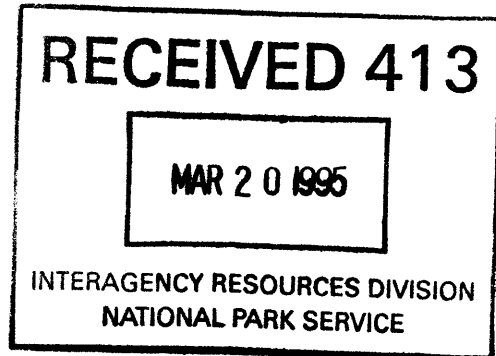
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1 Wakefield Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co, WI



7. Architectural Description

Built in 1940-41, Wakefield Hall is located on the northeastern corner of the Northland College campus quadrangle and it is the first building visitors to the campus encounter. Highway 13 forms its eastern boundary, and the main driveway into the campus defines the southern boundary. The College's first building, Wheeler Hall, sits just to the west, and a gentle ravine lies to the north. A few trees, some bushes, and a grassy lawn surround the building.

The one-and-a-half story red brick Colonial Revival building is based on, but is not a pure imitation of Wakefield Mansion, the birthplace of George Washington. The approximately 53' by 35' building is side gable in form, with four gable-roofed dormers on each of the long sides (front and back). The roof is clad in wood shingles. The brick is laid in flemish bond. The building rests on a concrete foundation. Four large shaped exterior chimneys hug the building's side elevations, two on each side.

The west elevation is the main facade. Two nine-over-nine and one narrow six-over-six windows flank the centered main entrance on each side. The nine-over-nine windows are spaced evenly in relation to the main entrance. All the windows are set in wood frames of complex molding profiles. The main entrance is accessed by three concrete stairs and is comprised of a multi-panel wood door in a wood frame under a brick segmental arch. Four pedimented dormers on the roof slope above have side walls of diagonal wood boards and house small four-over-four double-hung wood sash windows. Small horizontal windows centered beneath the first story windows provide light to the basement. A narrow cornice featuring small wood dentils runs beneath the eave of the roof.

The south-facing side elevation's gable end is dominated by the two shaped chimneys. Header bricks laid at an angle create the sloping surfaces of the chimney. Between the chimneys, the first story features two nine-over-nine windows in frames similar to those on the east elevation. The second story features a door in a simple frame and a six-over-six window. A wrought iron balcony spans the space between the two chimneys. Two small horizontal windows provide light to the basement.

The east (rear) elevation of Wakefield Hall is a mirror image of the front, with the exception of an additional dormer centered above the secondary entrance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2 Wakefield Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., WI

The north-facing side elevation features chimneys and a balcony similar to those on the south elevation. Unlike the south elevation, the north elevation features windows only on the second story. There are two four-over-four double-hung, wood sash windows in frames similar to those throughout the rest of the building. On the west end of the north elevation, a small projecting gable-roofed brick entrance vestibule provides access to the basement. The door is similar to the other main doors.

The interior of Wakefield Hall is rich with dark antiqued pine trim.³ Originally, the first floor was one large L-shaped room, with a stairwell and Librarian's office occupying the northeast corner. When the building became home to administrative offices in 1969, two walls were added to create a meeting room and another office (see plans). Entrance is via an interior vestibule which projects into the main room. The side walls of the vestibule feature paneled wainscoting under two twenty-four-pane windows. Pine trim surrounds all the window openings, which are deeply recessed into the brick walls. A heavy pine cornice having a complex molding profile runs along the juncture of walls and ceiling. The cornice has been replicated on the two new walls. Square support columns feature pine-panelled bases and a narrow pine cornice. The north wall of the old Librarian's office is fully paneled in pine and features lush built-in cabinets and a segmental-arched fireplace opening surrounded by blue and white tiles.

The second floor, accessed by an enclosed stairway located north of the secondary entrance, originally housed the book stacks. It was, and still is, one large open room. Trim and architectural detailing here are minimal.

The basement has a central corridor off of which radiate a series of small rooms. Trim and architectural detailing here are also minimal.

The architectural integrity of Wakefield Hall is high. Other than the addition of the walls discussed above, Wakefield Hall has experienced few alterations. Heating panels have been added under many of the windows and in the vestibule. A removable window-type air-conditioner is located in the north window on the east wall. Electricity and plumbing have been modernized, but the improvements are not evident. Interestingly, the change in use, from Library to administrative offices was part of the original plan of the building.

³Instructions for "antiquing" the pine are found in the plans and specifications by Shefchik dated May 23, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1 Wakefield Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., WI

8. Statement of Significance

Summary of Significance

This property is locally significant under Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places in the area of Architecture. It is an excellent example, with high integrity, of Colonial Revival architecture. Constructed in 1940-41, Wakefield Hall is an example of the work of architect Thomas J. Shefchik and an excellent representation of his ability to design in Period Revival styles. It is a replica of the 1932 reconstruction of George Washington's birthplace in Wakefield, Virginia. The period of significance dates from the beginning of construction in 1940 to the completion of the building in 1941. Wakefield Hall is significant at the local level.

Historic Background: Ashland

Northland College is located in the Northern Wisconsin community of Ashland. Ashland is nestled along the southern shore of Lake Superior in the Chequamegon Region. The city is now the region's industrial center, but developed considerably later than settlements on Madeline Island located in the Apostle Islands just to the north, home to early fur-trading posts and missionary efforts. Historians of Northland College have underscored the importance of the Madeline Island's missions, and later tourism, on the development of the College.⁴

Native American oral tradition places their first habitation in the region to the 1400s, although earlier indigenous peoples may well have populated the Apostle Islands.⁵ Ojibwa migrated from the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and after settling first in the Sault Ste. Marie area, and later on the tip of Chequamegon Point, they established a defensible settlement in the middle of Madeline Island. Their success proved to be their downfall, for the Island evidently could not support the growing population and apparently the Ojibwa left the Madeline Island in

⁴Nathaniel B. Dexter, Northland College, A History. (Ashland, Wisconsin:Northland College Print Shop), 1968, 1-41.

⁵Cooper, David, editor. By Fire, Storm, and Ice: Underwater Archeological Investigations in the Apostle Islands. (Underwater Archeology Program, Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin: Madison, Wisconsin.) 1991, 8.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2 Wakefield Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., WI

about 1610.⁶ Archeological studies and written resources, however, place the first Native American settlement on the Island in the late 1600s - contemporary to the advent of the fur trade in the region.

Throughout the mid-1600s, French explorers, traders, and Jesuits were exploring and documenting Lake Superior and its environs. The whole region was at times known both as Chequamegon (as it still is today) and as La Pointe. In the late 1680s, traders experiencing similar conflicts with the Sioux as the Ojibwa had in the 1400s, moved their posts from the mainland to the end of Chequamegon Point, naming it La Pointe. None-the-less, the settlement withstood numerous attacks. When Pierre Le Sueur, appointed to command a corps of soldiers to protect a company of fur traders, reached the region in 1693, he decided to locate his fort across the water on Madeline Island instead of at the existing settlement. Le Sueur's fort was established at, and the traders' settlement moved to, the southwestern tip of the island. The name La Pointe was reused for this new establishment.

For five years, La Pointe was the fulcrum of fur trading in the region.¹⁰ An overly successful system of fur trading flooded the fur market in both Canada and France. After prices dropped and all trading licenses were canceled, Le Sueur and his staff left the Island in 1698. After two decades, the French wanted to regain their prominence in the fur trade - having been threatened by the success of the Hudson's Bay Company further north - and re-established their post on Madeline Island in 1718.¹¹ The fort enjoyed forty years of significant trading activity. This age of the French fur trade on Madeline Island ended in the late 1750s when New France (now Canada) needed their commissioned soldiers to fight the English in the East and could no longer man the fort. Remains of the fort

⁶Hamilton Nelson Ross, La Pointe - Village Outpost. (St. Paul, Minnesota: North Central Publishing Company) 1960, 13.

⁷Cooper, 9.

⁸Ross, 34-40.

⁹Ibid., 40-43

¹⁰Ibid., 45.

¹¹Ibid., 46.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 3 Wakefield Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., WI

were destroyed by the English in 1765.¹² Not until 1791 was there again a European fur-trading presence at Madeline Island. In 1818, after a variety of political territorial rearrangements, John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company acquired the fur trade post on Madeline Island.¹³

About 1820, the Warren brothers, Lyman and Truman, came to La Pointe as traders with the American Fur Company and subsequently married daughters of Michel Cadotte. The well-educated Warrens, with growing families, soon sought a school teacher for their children and the children of the community, and a missionary for the Native Americans. This resulted in the arrival of teacher Frederick Ayer, and missionary Reverend Sherman Hall to the small village. In 1834, Hall effected the construction of a mission building south of Middle Fort. In July, 1835, Catholic priest Father Frederic Baraga arrived in La Pointe dedicating St. Joseph's Chapel in the next month.¹⁴

Over the next decades the growth of the communities of Superior, Duluth, Bayfield, Washburn and Ashland intruded on La Pointe's position as a trading center. The 1854 treaty between the Ojibwa and the United States Government established reservations for the Native Americans of the region. Protestant Indians moved to Odanah, just east of townsite of Ashland.¹⁵

The first whites settled in Ashland in the same year as the establishment of the region's Indian reservations. The boundaries of the Odanah reservation had been drawn to the east of the Ashland townsite rather than west at the foot of the Bayfield peninsula specifically to allow Euro-Americans access to the south shore of Lake Superior. From 1854 to the early 1870s, Ashland grew irregularly. The Civil War caused most of the settlers great hardships and all but one family left the area.¹⁶

La Pointe had been home to the seat of La Pointe County (renamed Bayfield County in 1866) from 1845 to 1860. When Ashland County was created in 1860, with the

¹²Ibid., 48-61.

¹³Ibid., 65-72.

¹⁴Ibid., 73-79.

¹⁵Ibid., 108-152.

¹⁶Guy Burnham, The Lake Superior Country in History and in Story. (Ann Arbor, Michigan: Browzer Books) 1975. Reprint of 1929 edition, 246.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4 Wakefield Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., WI

Apostle Islands as part of it, county administration was moved to Ashland. After a population loss in Ashland, La Pointe was again the county seat from 1863 to 1871. After 1871, Ashland's predominance won it permanent status as the home of county government.¹⁷

Population grew in the 1870s, due largely to the growth of post war lumbering and stone quarrying, which had begun in 1870. In 1872, 200 buildings were built between March and November. A local newspaper was established the same year, and the town was able to boast ten stores, two breweries, two schools, saloons, hotels, a church and a sawmill. Growth was bolstered by the arrival of the Wisconsin Central in 1873. The track went only as far south as Penokee Gap, riders had to travel by foot or wagon from Marshfield or Park Falls, which had been reached by rail from the south. The Wisconsin Central's line was linked with the south in 1877. In the same year, the railroad built the Hotel Chequamegon, and the cornerstone was laid for the County Courthouse.¹⁸

The small city, along with the rest of Northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, experienced a two-year boom beginning in 1885 upon the discovery of iron ore in the Gogebic Range. Ashland's situation and existing facilities made it the port of choice for shipping ore to the East. The Northern Pacific & Omaha Railroad had reached Ashland in 1884, and the Milwaukee Lake Shore & Western Railroad (later known as the C & NW) in 1885. The latter line immediately built an ore dock to augment shipping. Two years later the Wisconsin Central finished their ore dock. By 1887, at the same time the city was incorporated by the Wisconsin State Legislature, the boom of the iron years was over, and Ashland was left to develop at a slower pace.¹⁹

In the following years, Ashland's economy was fueled by lumbering and sawmills, and by the dozen brownstone quarries on the lake shore of the peninsula and the Apostle Islands. By the early 1900s, the region was primarily dependant on local farming and the more stable remains of the iron industry. It was during this tentative period that local citizens began contemplating a private higher education institution.²⁰

¹⁷Ross, 123-5; John O. Holzhueter, Madeline Island and the Chequamegon Region. (The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1974), 50.

¹⁸Burnham., 252-256.

¹⁹Ibid., 260-262.

²⁰Ibid., 262-264.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 5 Wakefield Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., WI

Northland College History

The late nineteenth century residents of the Chequamegon Region and the rest of the North Woods, including the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and northern Minnesota, had no "high grade high schools"²¹ for its young adults. A solution was proposed by a wealthy landowner and the promoter of St. Anthony Park (in St. Paul, Minnesota) Charles H. Pratt, who first proposed settlement of a new colony, focused around a Christian Academy, to be located in the White River Valley of Northern Wisconsin (now known as Bibon Swamp). Although the school would eventually be located in Ashland, Pratt's early letters lay out some basic principles of Northland College.²² Pratt wanted the students of the school to have practical training which could fully sustain them as adults, or serve to augment their future farm incomes. His 1891 suggestions for the "practical side" of the curriculum included:

- "a. Wood-working. Our saw-mill would be here; with its power usable for any wood industries.
- b. Clay products. We have what appears to be the only yet discovered clay for pressed brick and terra cotta in N. Wisc.
- c. Forestry' & perhaps Mining, - both these subjects being of interest to North Wisc.
- d. Agricultural.
- e. Commercial. No commercial school at Ashland.
- f. By all means, plan also for a Summer School as a leading feature.

All of these, or any of these departments, would draw pupils, and would add to the self-support of the school."²³

Pratt promoted his ideas to Rev. George W. Nelson, Congregational General Missionary for Northern Wisconsin. They soon convened representatives of all the larger churches of Northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan; Head of Beloit Academy Professor Burr; President E. H. Merrell of Ripon Academy; Wisconsin Congregational college philanthropists O.H. Ingram, Elijah Swift, and J.L. Townsend; and Ashland businessmen L.C. Wilmarth and Mr. Shores. At the end of a conference held on August 5, 1891 at Pratt's proposed site, the establishment of a Northern Wisconsin Christian Academy, rather than a new colony, was set as the goal of the organizers.²⁴

²¹Dexter, 23.

²²Ibid., 24.

²³Ibid., 24.

²⁴Ibid., 24-29.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 6 Wakefield Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., WI

Reverend E.P. Wheeler, son of Protestant missionaries at La Pointe, became involved with the founding of the new school as part of the nominating committee for the Incorporation Committee. As an Ashland promotor, and the man who established the Odanah Indian Reservation boundaries east of the Ashland townsite, he worked to persuade the residents and businessmen of Ashland to lobby for locating the new school in Ashland. Financial contributions from Ashland helped persuade the incorporators to confirm Ashland as the final site.²⁵

After considering a number of sites in Ashland, an undeveloped area along a ravine on Ellis Avenue, on the south end of the city, was chosen in 1891. The Incorporation Committee had solicited information from other academies and colleges regarding types of schools, administration, location, housing and, building types.²⁶ Consequently, the first building of the new academy was to be a red brick and brownstone building, patterned after, but slightly larger than, Beloit Academy (College)'s Scoville Hall.²⁷

North Wisconsin Academy, as it was then called, had a troubled first few years. The panic of 1893 restricted the early growth spurt of the academy - changes in architectural styles lowered demand for local brownstone, causing Ashland donors not only to fall short in their expected donations to the academy, but to be less forgiving in letting outstanding construction debts lie. Consequently, the first building of the new academy was not completed until 1894. In addition, the hard times and personal reasons caused the entire staff to resign at the end of the first year. Success was seen in 1897 when the first class graduated.²⁸

The original purpose of the new school was to provide the upper grades of high school to area students, as was typical of such private academies throughout the state. Academies had been founded in Wisconsin before statehood, and included

²⁵Ibid., 28-30.

²⁶Dexter, 35-38.

²⁷Scoville had been built in 1889 to plans by architects Patton and Fisher, for \$27,000, and was destroyed 1973.

²⁸Ibid., 49-70.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 7 Wakefield Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., WI

such schools as Beloit Academy (Beloit College), Prairieville Academy (Carroll College) and Ripon Academy (Ripon College).²⁹

Like its predecessors, North Wisconsin Academy was interested in providing "something more than an academy".³⁰ Casual references to the school as a college began soon after its founding, and were pursued formally by the Board of Trustees at their June 13, 1906 meeting. By September of that year, the by-laws had been reworded to include a college course, and the Board of North Wisconsin Academy became the Board of Trustees of Northland College.³¹ As more public high schools were developed in the region, proportionally fewer students attended the academy course, and more attended the college course.³²

Today, as historically, Northland College emphasizes practical education in addition to more classical academic fields. From its inception, the school promoted self-sufficiency - both for funding a student's education and for life after college. Practical training has made the college an attractive choice for students, and, perhaps as importantly, has helped see the school through some difficult financial times. The college now offers a broad range of study, including environmental studies and an outdoor education program. Approximately 750 students are currently enrolled, of which about 30% are from Wisconsin, 30% from the East Coast, 30% from Pennsylvania and Illinois, and 10% from elsewhere in the States and other countries.

Wakefield Hall Construction History

Northland College's first library was housed on the third floor of Wheeler Hall, which also served as classrooms and the boy's dormitory. In 1938, the Wisconsin chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) held a meeting at Northland College and recognized the College's need for a new library facility.³³

²⁹Wyatt, Vol.3, Education Theme, Public Secondary Education chapter, 3-1 - 3-3, Normal Schools and State Teachers Colleges, 4-1. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin does not address Private Colleges and the University of Wisconsin System, two other areas which will shed light on the history of private academies.

³⁰Dexter, 45.

³¹Ibid., 96.

³²Ibid., 119.

³³Ashland Daily Press, 22 July, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 8 Wakefield Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., WI

They designated Northland College as one of their sixteen "approved schools" teaching "true American ideas"³⁴ [emphasis theirs]. These schools were the beneficiaries of money raised by local chapters of the DAR.

The library fundraiser was spearheaded by Helen K. Stuart, Wisconsin Regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The estate of Stuart's neighbor, Helen L. Sloane of Appleton, donated \$1,000 for a book-buying trust. In March, 1939, a committee of College Trustees met with architect Thomas Shefchik of Duluth, the successful designer of Memorial Hall, and Stuart, to discuss the project. Stuart herself donated \$15,000, and the Wisconsin Chapters of the DAR pledged to raise not less than \$10,000 for construction costs. A replica of George Washington's birthplace, the Wakefield estate, was suggested as the perfect embodiment of American Ideals.³⁵

The house on the Wakefield estate, in Wakefield, Virginia, is itself a reconstruction built in 1932. The design of the building is representative of the 1930s Colonial Revival style rather than an accurate reconstruction of Washington's early home. His home, which burned in 1779, was a "low pitched, single storied, frame building, with four rooms on the first floor and an enormous chimney at each end on the outside"³⁶. The reconstruction was done to plans by Edward W. Donn, Jr, and was said to be "typical of 18th Century architecture".³⁷ Shefchik's plans closely replicated the exterior of the Wakefield "reconstruction", although on a slightly smaller scale. The interior, however, was designed for library and office functions and is not similar to the Wakefield restoration.

Shefchik's plans for the one-and-a-half-story, 53' x 35' "fireproof" building were submitted in May of 1940.³⁸ With the existing donation in hand, and fundraising underway,

³⁴Promotional Calendar, 1941, "Proposed D.A.R. Memorial Library for Northland College".

³⁵Dexter, 160.

³⁶J.K. Paulding, "Life of Washington" (1835), 18-19, quoted in promotional pamphlet "The birthplace of George Washington" by the Carnegie Institution of Washington, D.C., release date, December 31, 1933.

³⁷"The Birthplace of George Washington", np.

³⁸Ashland Daily Press, 22 July, 1940; Dexter, 160.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 9 Wakefield Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., WI

the Trustees of the College authorized withdrawal of funds to begin work. Once the additional money came in, it would replace the College's contributions.

Wakefield Hall, whose name changed from Memorial Library because of confusion with the existing Memorial Hall, was designed to first accommodate the library and later be converted to administrative offices when a larger library was needed. The first and second stories were open, with circulation and a reading room on the first floor, and stacks on the second floor. A dumbwaiter was incorporated into the plans to ease transportation of the books between floors.

Tomlinson Company of Ashland were the contractors in charge of construction. Groundbreaking was July 22, 1940.³⁹ The building was completed the next year. A book brigade was held to move the books from Wheeler Hall to Wakefield. Each person was given a number and went in order to install the books. 20,000 books were moved in four hours on the first moving day. The rest were moved the next day.⁴⁰

Clare Marquette, wife of Northland College's professor of history, organized a tea to raise money for the additional equipment and accessories for the new library. The event was so successful that an annual Library Tea was held for the next fourteen years.⁴¹

As foreseen in the original planning stages of Wakefield Hall, the College eventually needed a new Library. The new library was completed in 1969. With the addition of two walls creating two new rooms on the first floor, Wakefield was then transformed into administrative offices, and now houses the Department of Admissions.

Wakefield Hall Architect

Thomas Shefchik grew up near Sanborn, Wisconsin. His first architectural work was with Henry Wildhagen, an architect in Ashland. Wildhagen was a well-known architect in the Chequamegon area, having designed the Ashland County Courthouse, the Bayfield Carnegie Library and the LaPointe Town Hall. Shefchik began his own practice in 1917 with Clyde W. Kelly as a partner. In 1922, that partnership was dissolved, and by 1926, Shefchik was working in Duluth, Minnesota with offices at 313 Glencoe Building. His office was at the same location in 1940. His son,

³⁹Ashland Daily Press, 22 July, 1940.

⁴⁰Dexter, 161.

⁴¹Ibid., 161-162.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 10 Wakefield Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., WI

Thomas J. Shefchik, Jr., joined the architectural practice in 1948. In addition to Memorial Hall and Wakefield Hall on the Northland College Campus, Shefchik designed the Duluth City Hall, Pure Air Sanitorium in Bayfield (1918-23), Northern National Bank, Ashland National Bank, Latimer⁴² School, the Ashland County Poor Farm, and other buildings in and near Ashland.

Architectural Significance

The "Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin" manual states:

The term "Period Revival" is often used to describe a wide range of past motifs and styles that architects borrowed during the first four decades of the twentieth century, but particularly during the 1920s. Many architects commonly advertised their expertise in a broad stylistic range during this period. The wide availability of photographs, and the popularization of revival styles through architectural journals, in concert with Beaux Arts exposure, might have allowed for greater historical accuracy. However, many of the best designs of the period are not historically "correct" copies of mannerism but are the architect's creative interpretation of the style.⁴³

and that:

Period Colonial Revival buildings usually include many of the same elements or stylistic references as the Georgian, but are less formal or specific to the Georgian and Federal models. The most numerous of these revival buildings are residences, usually two-stories in height and faced with clapboards. They rely most heavily on a simple, classically derived entrance to communicate their architectural heritage. Symmetry of design is also common, as are gable roofs with dormers. Other eighteenth century architectural references include columns, pilasters, denticulated cornices, and shutters. At times the form may assume an L-shape to accommodate a breezeway and garage. With clapboard and wood shingle facing and no overt classical references, it may assume a "Cape Cod" aspect.⁴⁴

⁴²Ashland Daily Press, 29 May, 1926; Madeline Island Schools and Highlights of Island History (Madeline Island Historic Preservation Association, typed manuscript) 1992; Dexter, 140, 160; Wakefield Hall Plans, dated 1940; Biographical file of the Northeast Region Historical Center, University of Minnesota, Duluth.

⁴³Wyatt, Architecture 2-28.

⁴⁴Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 11 Wakefield Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., WI

New life was breathed into the Colonial Revival style with the restoration and recreation of Williamsburg, Virginia, during the 1920s and 1930s, thus reestablishing an American architectural identity in contrast to the contemporary European-conceived International Style. In contrast to their nineteenth century antecedents, the Colonial Revival structures of the 1920s-1940s are much simpler in form and ornamentation and much smaller in scale.⁴⁵

Northland College has two buildings with clear historical references. Wakefield Hall is one of the two. The other is a Tudor Revival women's dormitory known as Memorial Hall, constructed in 1926-27.

Wakefield Hall is an example of the later phase of Colonial Revival, as evidenced in its simplicity of form and ornamentation, and its rather small size. Although promotionally called a replica of George Washington's birthplace, it is in fact, a building based on, rather than purely replicating, Wakefield Hall. This is evidenced in the different number of windows and dormers, and in the more modern interior plan configuration. The design remains true to the original Wakefield Hall, however, in its design details and general proportions. As such, it is an excellent example of the use of Early American prototypes for design inspiration, and the modifications that Period Revival architects made for contemporary uses.

Wakefield Hall is locally significant under Criterion C as a fine, late example of the Colonial Revival style and it is also an excellent example of the work of its architect, Thomas Shefchik. Constructed in 1940-41, Wakefield Hall is a distinctive example of Colonial Revival design, a style that was in great vogue in the years between the World Wars. During this period, American architects began to apply the Colonial Revival style to a wide variety of new building types because its design vocabulary proved to be highly adaptable and it evoked a popular nostalgia for the ideas and ideals of the early years of the republic. The exterior of Wakefield Hall and much of the interior detail is carefully and accurately modeled on the original Wakefield Hall in Virginia; the birthplace of George Washington. As such, it is a good example of the high degree of authenticity that architects in the mid-twentieth century could apply to their designs. Wakefield Hall is also both the finest example of this style in Ashland and the only example on the Northland College campus.

⁴⁵Ibid., 2-29.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1 Wakefield Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., WI

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 2 Wakefield Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., WI

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Wakefield Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., WI

Section 10 Page 1

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 9 and 10 of block 3, Superior Addition, City of Ashland.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries have been drawn to include all of the property historically associated with this building.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

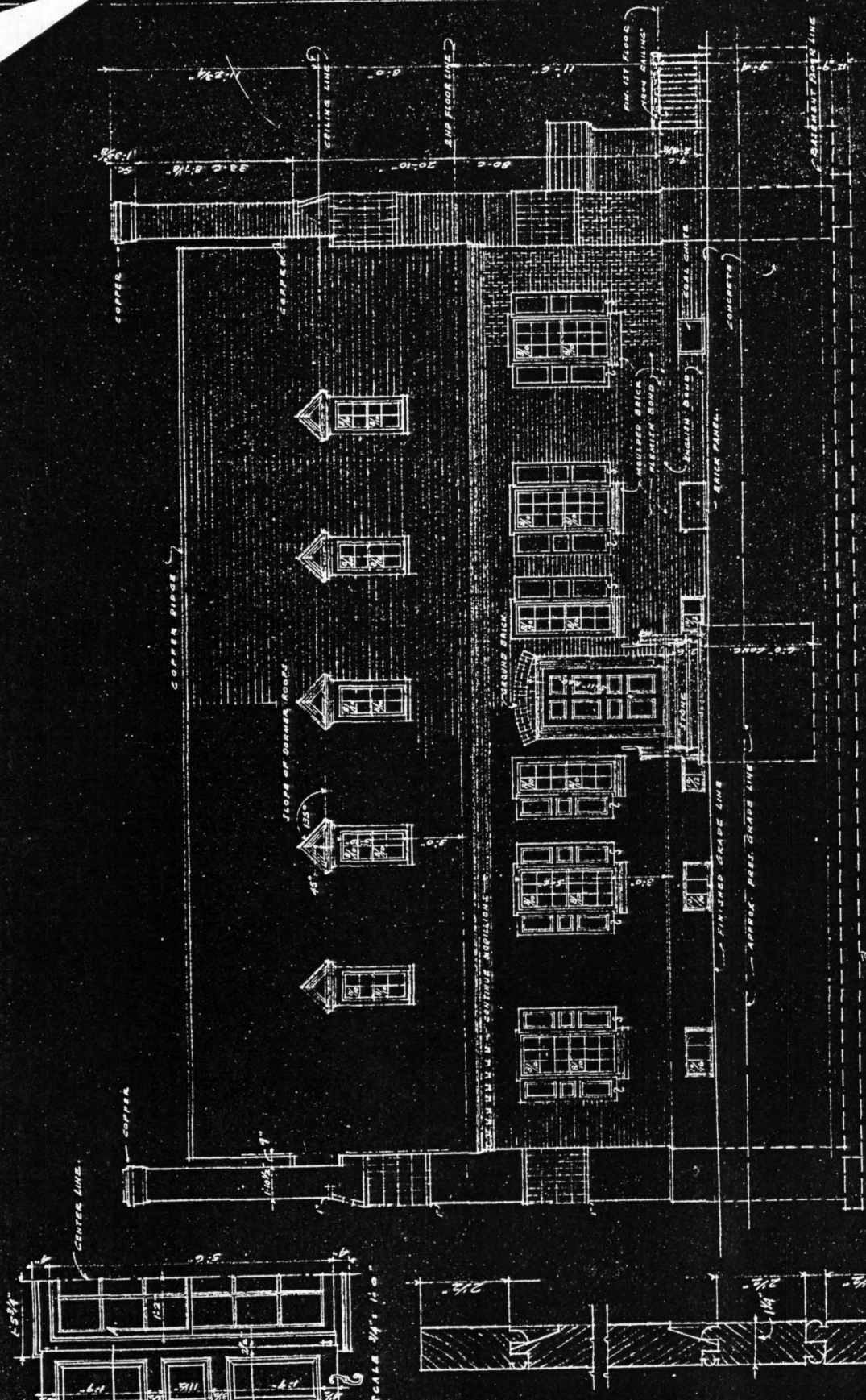
Section photographs Page 1 Wakefield Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., WI

Photographs:

Wakefield Hall
Northland College
Ashland, Ashland County, Wisconsin
Photographer: Rebecca Sample Bernstein
date: October 2, 1993

1. West (main) and south elevations
2. East and north elevations
3. South elevation: chimney and balconette detail
4. East elevation: wall, window and cornice detail
5. North elevation: basement entrance detail
6. Interior, first floor: entrance vestibule and windows
7. Interior: stairs from first to second floor
8. Interior: "Librarian's office" wall paneling and fireplace detail

not to scale

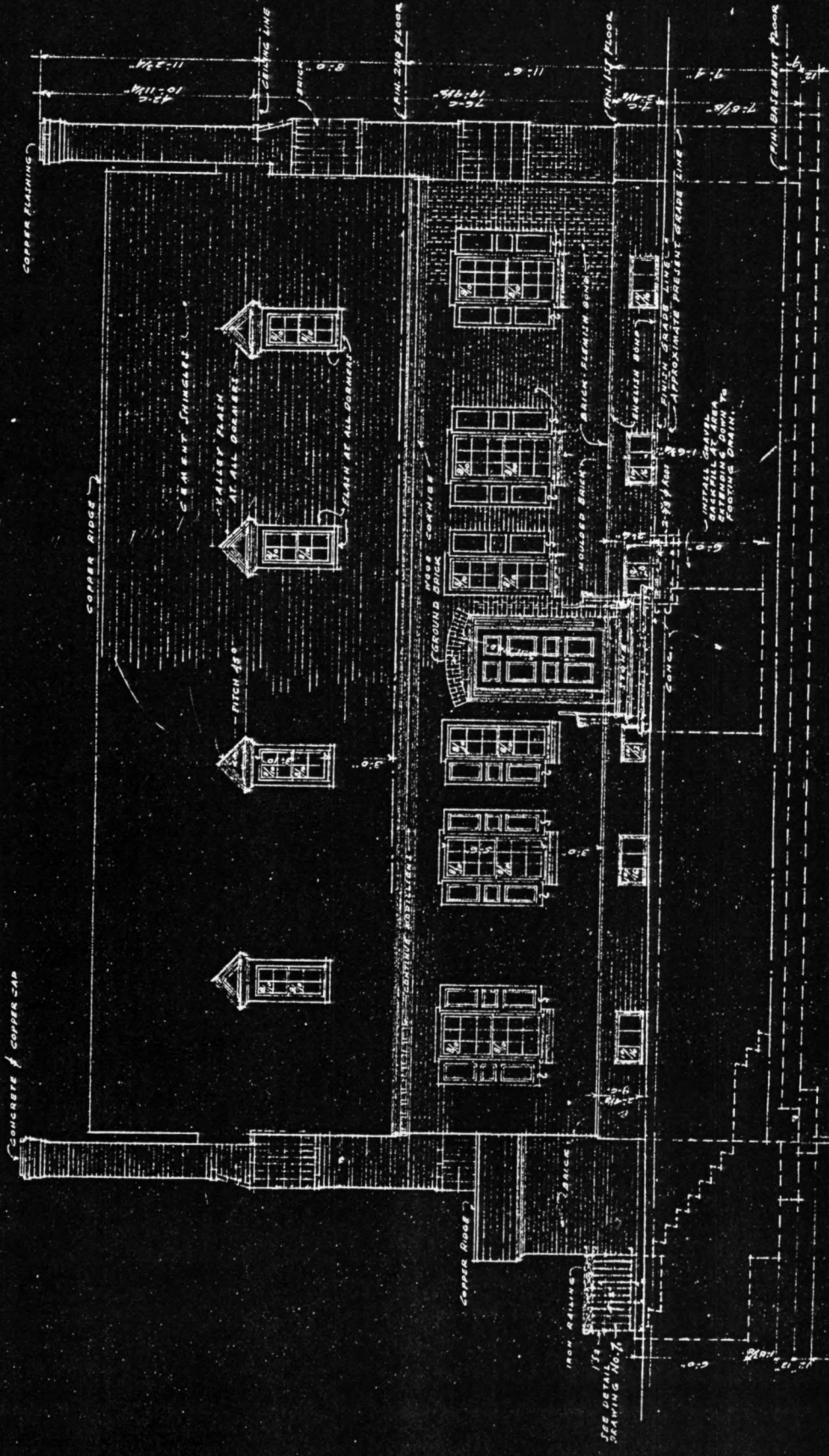


EAST ELEVATION.
SCALE - 1/4" = 1'-0"

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ASHLAND, WISCONSIN.
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DATE: 5-23-49
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SECTION A-A
SCALE - 1/2" FULL SIZE
DETAIL OF ELEVATION
OF SHUTTERS.

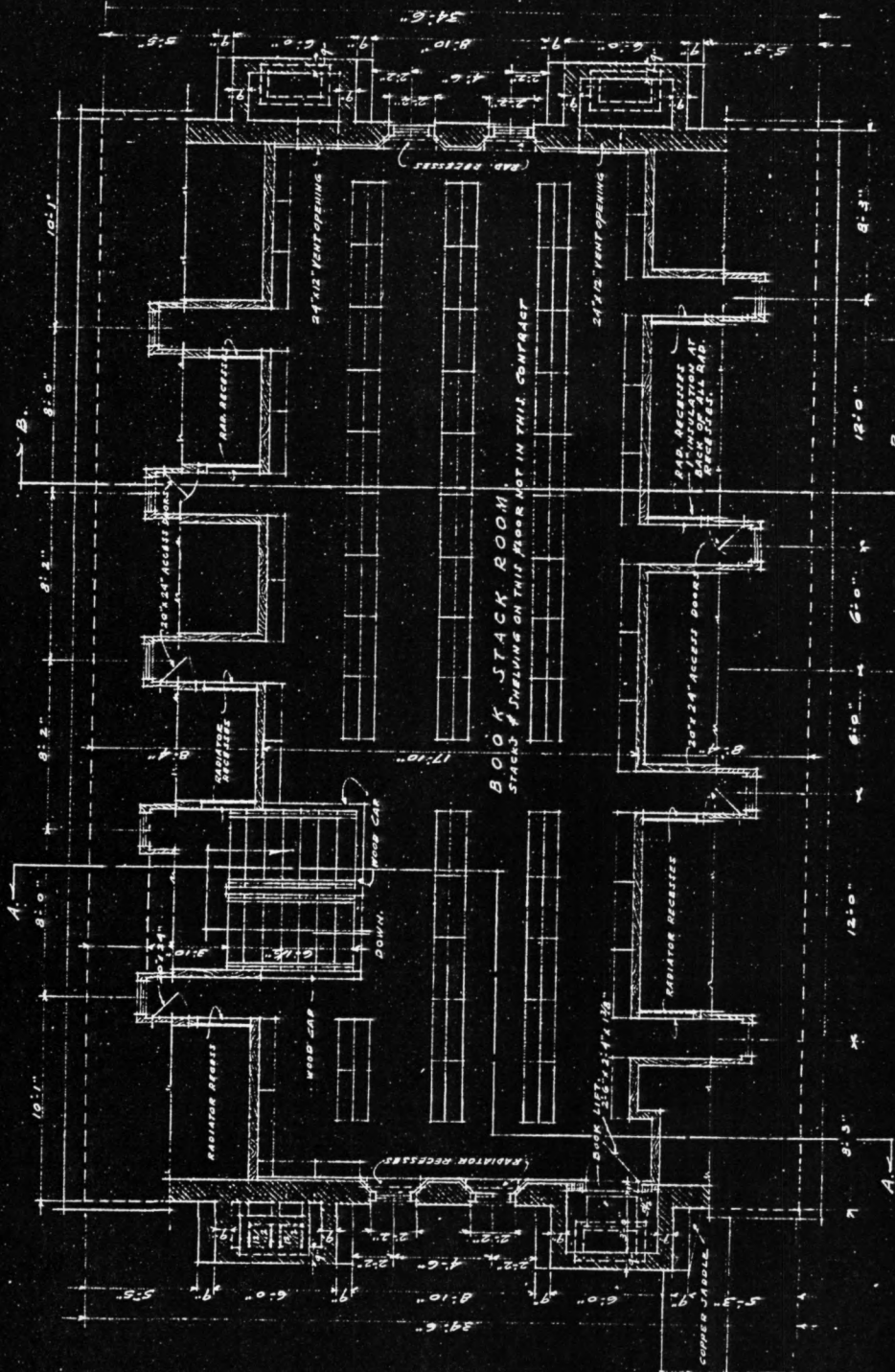
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WEST ELEVATION
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SECOND FLOOR PLAN
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ROOM FINISHING SCHEDULE

ROOM NAME	REMARKS
BOOK STACK ROOM	
	TERAZZO
	LINOLEUM
	CEMENT
	CEMENT
	WOOD
	10" PINE
	X PLASTER WALL
	X CEILING
	X TRIM
	X LAMINATE
	X PAINT
	X CABINET

