

3-18-74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| |
|---------------------------|
| STATE: Wisconsin |
| COUNTY: Outagamie |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |
| ENTRY DATE JAN 18 1974 |

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Main Hall, Lawrence University

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
400 - 500 East College Avenue, Lawrence University

CITY OR TOWN:
Appleton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Eighth Congressional District

STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55 COUNTY: Outagamie CODE: 087

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | | |

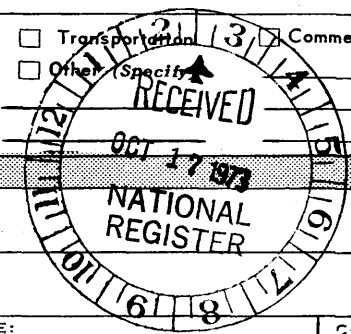
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Lawrence University

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 1847

CITY OR TOWN:
Appleton

STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 055



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Outagamie County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
401 South Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Appleton

STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 055

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Wisconsin's Historic Preservation Plan, Volume II: The Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison

STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 055

STATE: Wisconsin

COUNTY: Outagamie

ENTRY NUMBER: JAN 18 1974

DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7 DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Lawrence University's Main Hall is a five-story (basement and four floors) 120' by 60' rectangularly-planned Federal style building. Covered by a hip roof that terminates in a Neo-Classical cupola, each elevation is uncompromisingly symmetrical and shows no breaks either in projection or relief. The corner stone was laid June 28, 1853, and the building was in use in the fall of the following year.¹

Fox River stone, a grayish-white limestone, is the major building material. On the exterior, it is laid in coursed rubble with raised overlaid joints. From a distant view, the effect of these raised joints is one of fine ashlar masonry. Dressed stones are used only in the quoins, sills, lintels, and door jambs. An old photograph (ca. 1860)² shows the quoins, sills, lintels, and jambs in strong contrast to the wall suggesting that they may have been painted white.

The fenestration is quite in keeping with the Neo-Classical style. Vertically-oriented simple rectangular openings are regularly disposed across the face of each facade. The fenestration is kept close to the surface offering little relief to the severe plainness of the design. The top and basement window bands are square in contrast to the rectangular windows in the middle section. A dressed-stone string course terminates the basement story and a group of four closely-spaced Italianate brackets are located between each window on the top story to further differentiate these two stories from the middle section. A simple thin dressed-stone sill and a larger dressed-stone lintel define each window. The original domed cupola was a simple drum articulated by alternating Ionic pilasters and round-headed windows. The entablature consists of a frieze and continuous and profiled cornice. Alternating consoles and small ovoid eyelets fill the frieze. A shallow drum opened by an oculus surmounts the dome and the whole is raised on a polygonal and multi-profiled base.

Although an engraving of 1878 reveals the cupola as described above,³ several important later changes have completely modified the original Neo-Classical design. Today, the cupola stands as a rather complete, but reticent, essay in the more baroque esthetic of the Neo-Classical Revival, a style popular after 1893. The oculus has been closed and another stage, a quasi-lantern, has been added to the top of the dome. The continuous cornice has been transformed into one articulated by regular returns above each pilaster. The returns themselves are an added feature having replaced the original consoles. Consoles have been added to the base of each pilaster.

The original appearance of Main Hall has been modified on several occasions in the attempt to modernize both its facilities and appearance. Once the cupola stood as the only distinctive feature of the whole design. Today, the front facade is graced by a colossal prostyle tetra style Ionic portico, advancing from the facade by one intercolumniation and terminating with a straight entablature and balustrade. On the rear facade, a colossal series of four Ionic pilasters with an entablature has been added. A small,

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(Continuation Sheet)

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| STATE Wisconsin | |
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| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | JAN 18 1974 |

(Number all entries)

Main Hall, Lawrence University

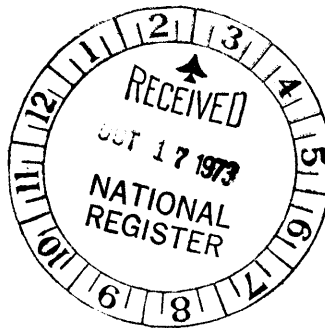
7. Description continued.

pedimented Ionic portico with two columns has been added to each side entry. All these changes have been made during the terms of President Plantz who, ca. 1900, added the front portico and perhaps made the changes on the cupola, and Nathan Pusey who, ca. 1945, added the elaboration to the rear facade.

The building is in excellent condition. The attitude of the school's administrators, faculty, students, and alumni indicate that this building is well appreciated and will, most likely, continue to be preserved. A drive to raise restoration funds currently is under way.

Notes

- 1) Marguerite E. Schumann, Creation of a Campus, A Chronicle of Lawrence College Buildings and the Men Who Made Them (Appleton, 1957), p. 5.
- 2) Ibid, facing p. 5.
- 3) Twenty-Ninth Annual Catalogue of the Lawrence University of Wisconsin (Appleton, 1878), frontispiece.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1853-4**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Main Hall's primary significance is architectural. It stands as a rare example of Bostonian Neo-Classicism in Wisconsin. Main Hall was built some fifty years following that style's popularity in northeastern United States (ca. 1795-1815). Moreover, Neo-Classicism is not known to have been pervasive in the Midwest. Nonetheless, it is appropriate to assign the Neo-Classical style to Main Hall on the basis of historical information.

The architectural taste of the school's primary benefactor, Amos A. Lawrence of Boston, was inclined toward the "proper" Bostonian style, that is Neo-Classicism. It is known that Lawrence had severely criticized the school's authorities for their previous display of "unsightly or objectionable [architectural] taste."¹ Hence, to mollify Lawrence, the school's authorities turned to the refined examples of Boston for architectural sources for Main Hall.²

Red brick originally had been planned as the building material,³ a choice of material which certainly is commensurate with the Neo-Classical style in Boston. However, inadequate local clays forced the use of local stone from the bed of the Fox River instead.⁴ Although red brick was not used, the quiet gray walls and simple fenestration together with the original masterfully-conceived cupola adequately convey the impression of the Neo-Classical style. Considering the building originally stood without embellishments on the four entrances, the original design was a well-executed essay in Neo-Classicism.

Although the school's Methodist ministers attempted to transplant Neo-Classicism into northern Wisconsin, some concessions to currently popular stylisms were introduced into Main Hall's design. The material used is such a concession. But more so is the rhythmically repeated band of Italianate brackets punctuating the underside of the eaves. This odd mixture, here transplanted Neo-Classicism and the Italianate style, is rather typical of the way in which all styles seem to come to northern and central Wisconsin.

Main Hall also enjoys some historical significance predicated upon its position as the oldest extant building on the Lawrence University campus. Lawrence University is a Wisconsin Registered landmark (Register No. 87).

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lawrence University Columbian Souvenir. Milwaukee, 1893.

Schumann, Marguerite E. Creation of a Campus, A Chronicle of Lawrence College Buildings and the Men Who Made Them. Appleton, 1957

Wisconsin Registered Landmark Nomination Application filed in the office of the Historic Sites Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

See Cont. sheet.

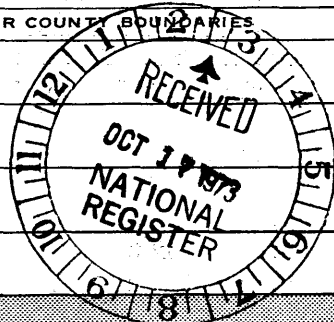
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | OR | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|----|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
| NW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 44° 15' 39" | 88° 23' 58" | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Juanita M. Ellias, 1973 Summer Architectural Survey Team

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin** DATE: **1 August 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Madison,** STATE: **Wisconsin 53706** CODE: **55**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name James Morton Smith
James Morton Smith
Director, State Historical Society of Wis.
Title (State Historic Preservation Officer)
Date October 10, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. R. Mortensen
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 1/18/74

ATTEST:
Ronald D. Greenberg
Keeper of The National Register
Date 1/17/74

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Main Hall, Lawrence University

8. Significance continued.

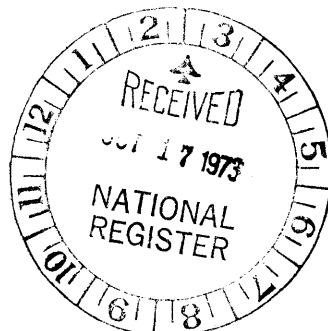
Its marker reads as follows:

Lawrence University chartered January 15, 1847, has admitted women to its student body from the day classes started November 12, 1849, in the original Academy or Institute. The first collegiate class of seven students -- four men and three women -- was graduated in July 1857, thereby making Lawrence University the first coeducational institution of higher learning in the State of Wisconsin.⁵

It is also thought to be the second oldest coeducational institution in the United States.⁶ Main Hall's secondary significance, therefore, rests upon its position as the earliest extant building of this educational institution. Main Hall has, and always will, stand for Appleton's citizens as one of the very last remaining remnants of its early pioneer history.

Notes

- 1) Marguerite E. Schumann, Creation of a Campus, A Chronicle of Lawrence College Buildings and the Men Who Made Them (Appleton, 1957), p. 10.
- 2) Ibid, Lawrence College, Alumni Record, 1857-1915 (Appleton, n.d.), p. 53; and Lawrence College, Alumni Record, 1857-1922 (Appleton, n.d.), p. 13.
- 3) Schumann, p. 9.
- 4) Ibid, p. 10
- 5) Wisconsin Registered Landmark Nomination Application filed in the office of the Historic Sites Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706. See letter dated 30 April 1971 to Mr. L. M. Thomas from Donald N. Anderson, Assistant Director, Historic Sites and Markers Division.
- 6) Ibid, "Wisconsin Registered Landmarks Inventory."



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Main Hall, Lawrence University

9. Bibliography continued.

Twenty-Ninth Annual Catalogue of the Lawrence University of Wisconsin.
Appleton, 1878.

Lawrence College, Alumni Record, 1857-1915. Appleton, n.d.

Lawrence College, Alumni Record, 1857-1922. Appleton, n.d.

