

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Washington
COUNTY: Walla Walla
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE DEC 3 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Memorial Building Whitman College

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
345 Boyer Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Walla Walla

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
#5 - Honorable Thomas S. Foley

STATE: Washington CODE: 53 COUNTY: Walla Walla CODE: 071

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
The Board of Trustees of Whitman College

STREET AND NUMBER:
345 Boyer Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Walla Walla

STATE: Washington CODE: 53

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
5th and Poplar Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Walla Walla

STATE: Washington CODE: 53

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal
 State
 County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Walla Walla

STATE: Washington CODE: 53

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

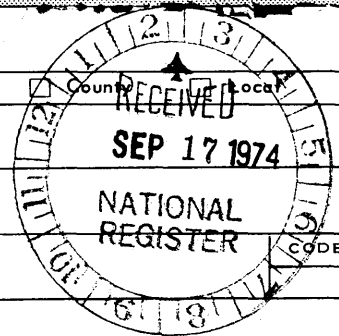
STATE: Washington

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Whitman College campus consists of twenty-five acres in the best and oldest residential portion of the city. On the north side of Boyer Avenue, sizeable buildings are placed on the perimeter of an expansive quadrangle, demonstrating the intent of the trustees to surround the campus with buildings. The oldest and most prominent is the Whitman Memorial Building, built in 1899 at a cost of a little over \$50,000 donated by Dr. D. K. Pearsons, Chicago.

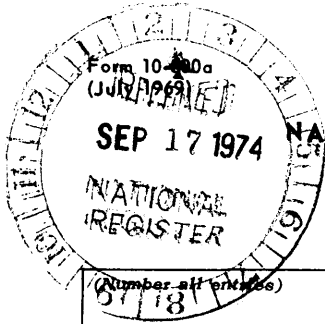
The Memorial Building is impressive for its attractive and dignified appearance, maintaining a difficult balance between aesthetics, economy and function. It is built of brick in a warm cream color, and trimmed with a combination of wooden mouldings and grey Tenino stone. The roof is wood frame with red metal Spanish tile, and the foundation is rock faced stone.

In plan, the main building resembles a thick Roman numeral one with its long axis parallel to the street. It is two and one half stories high with a partial daylight basement. The stone coursework foundation is included under all parts of the structure. It is completed at the top by a finished stone water table at the level of the first floor, one half story above ground. The hip roof follows the plan with its ridge and without changes in level.

Protruding from the mid-point of the long facade on the side toward the quadrangle is a flat roofed entrance porch. This is slightly more than one story in height and in the same plane at the front with the shorter wings projecting from opposite ends of the building. It is entirely sandstone with changes in cut and coursework above the water table. The wall above and directly behind this porch projects slightly, so that it is flush with the narrow roof overhang where it interrupts the cornice. It continues upward as a hipped dormer with its ridge a little below that of the main roof. Flanking this at intermediate positions in the roof are two dormers with parapet gables.

- ✓ Centered on the street side is a five story bell tower situated on a rectangular base similar to the entrance porch directly opposite on the other side of the building. Above the sandstone base which comprises the foundation and first floor entrance, the tower is built of brick and crowned by a pyramidal roof spire in metal tile and a weathervane.
- ✓ The fourth level containing the bell has pairs of arched openings on all sides where each arch spans from a pilaster to the central column dividing the pair. The fifth level houses four large, handwound clocks, one on each side, in a recessed panel between

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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#7 - Description
Memorial Building

corner piers that support the cornice and roof above. The surfaces of the piers curve inward to the panel along their vertical axes eliminating inside corners. The tower and entrance porch both shelter doorways behind a massive stone arched portal. The portal is at the head of a set of stairs tapering in breadth toward the top and returning to the building along the sides like a section from a ziggerat and similar in form to the hip roof.

The narrow wooden cornice gutter is boxed and rests on a sandstone corbel table above a course of finished stone, and both project outward progressively from the brick surface below. Walls rise to four different elevations where the cornice is a few feet lower on the long walls than around the end wings, higher still above the porch entrance and highest of all around the clock tower.

All windows are double hung. Most windows in the main facades line up in vertical and horizontal directions. They are contained within shallow panel recess extending upward to include first and second floor windows. These windows are arranged in a relationship that is repeated a total of eight times on the north and south sides, once on each major wall section as defined by the placement of building masses. Centered in the section are two pairs of windows one above the other within a single recessed panel, which includes brick mullions and the spandrel with brick infilling between stone sills and lintels. Centered on both sides of this recess and separated by a section of wall the width of one window is another recess with a single window at each of the two floors. The upper one is round headed under a semicircular sand stone arch.

The dormers (which are also included on the side with the clock tower) each have an arcade of three round headed windows with a series of three continuous stone arches spanning the openings and a decorative stone parapet above.

The Memorial Building is in good condition and remains unchanged from its original design on the exterior. Some interior changes have been made in the apportionment of spaces but these are very minor. Plumbing is in good condition but minimal for the size of building. A central steam plant separate from the main building supplies heat. Walls are plastered, stairways and balustrades are wood and wide and the floors are wood with some now covered by asphalt tile.

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 checked="" 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) 1899

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 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Memorial Building is the oldest remaining structure on the Whitman College campus, and it is significant as the focal point of the school's history and tradition. It has been said that "Whitman College was founded by a saint in memory of a hero". The saint, the Reverend Cushing Eells, founded Whitman Seminary December 30, 1859, naming it in honor of, and as a monument to, his pioneer missionary colleagues, Dr. Marcus Whitman and his wife, Narcissa.

✓ Marcus Whitman was among the first Americans to actively encourage settlement in the Pacific Northwest. In 1836 he established a mission near Walla Walla. As a medical doctor and on a return trip from the East, he accompanied an overland emigration of over one thousand persons. In 1847, Whitman and his wife along with fourteen others were massacred by Indians who were angered in part by the arrival of increasingly large numbers of white settlers.

Whitman College was established in the center of the original Washington Territory near the Whitman Mission site and later moved to its present location close to the heart of Walla Walla. While school buildings had been occupied as early as 1866, Memorial Building was one of the first two permanent structures built on the campus and it is the last one still standing.

✓ The Memorial Building was built without the usual expense for architectural fees, owing to the generosity of the architect, Mr. G. W. Babcock. The contractors took no profit on the work, receiving ordinary wages only. The stone cutter added greatly to the appearance and value of his work by hand carving all the keystones, a voluntary contribution on the part of Mr. Thomas Russell, owner of the Tenino stone quarry.

The construction of the Whitman Memorial Building went slowly, and it was not until January, 1900 that the building was ready for use. It was dedicated at commencement that year by Dr. O. W. Nixon, of the *Chicago International*, a longtime friend of Dr. Pearson, who donated the funds for construction.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Anderson, Florence Bennett, Leaven for the Frontier. Boston, The Christopher Publishing House, 1953.
 Baker, W. W., Forty Years a Pioneer: Business Life of Dorsey Syng Baker, 1848-1888. Seattle: Lowman and Hanford Publishing Company, 1934.
 Gilbert, Frank T., Historical Sketches of Walla Walla County. Portland: A. G. Walling Publishing Company, 1882.
 Lyman, William Dennison, County of Walla Walla, Washington Souvenir, 1905. Salem: Statesman Publishing Co., 1905.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

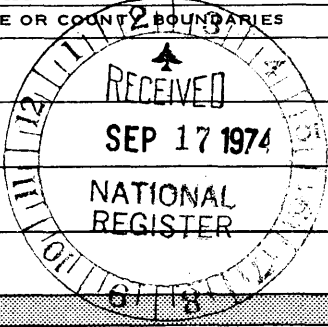
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		46 ° 04 ' 16 "	118 ° 19 ' 43 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than one**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Robert Wayne Hergert**

ORGANIZATION: **Historical Architectural Development, Inc.** DATE: **July 5, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1846 Center Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Walla Walla** STATE: **Washington** CODE: **53**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Charles H. Odegaard
 Charles H. Odegaard

Title Director-Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Date Sept 13, 1974

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

AR Markussen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/3/74

ATTEST:
W. G. Perry
 Keeper of The National Register

Date Nov. 27, 1974

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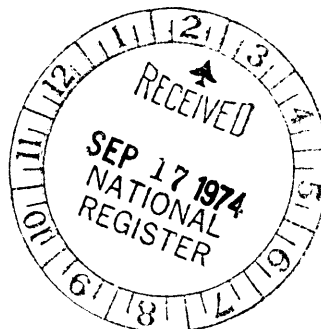
(Number all entries)

#8 - Significance
Memorial Building

The Memorial Building was designed in a simplified version of the Richardson Romanesque style. The building employs a variety of texture in brick and stone with arched openings and decorative eaves all following the substantial Romanesque style. It is a pleasant small-college interpretation of that architecture and it sets a tone of traditionalism for the campus with its tower rising above the flat landscape and neighboring structures.

Most important to the significance of the Memorial Building is its place in the traditions of Whitman College. It became the instructional center immediately upon completion and remained so until the late 1960's. It has always housed the administrative offices and the chapel for the college, used until recent years for every all-student meeting.

The clocktower is the distinguishing characteristic and most photographed part of Memorial Building. Its bell strikes on the hour for all the town to hear, and for many years it tolled the home-team score of winning football games. The tower has been the focal point of many pranks, election antics, and climbs to view the city. The Memorial Building seems to signify Whitman College to the school alumni. A drawing or photograph of the building or tower is found on almost all stationery and publications of the College. Memorial Building's stolid, conservative and dignified presence, now central to the growing area of the college campus, represents a tradition of institutional permanence in higher education known to be the continuing role of Whitman College.



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(Number all entries)

#9 - Major Bibliographical References
Memorial Building

- _____. History of Walla Walla County. n.p.: W. H. Lever, 1901.
- _____. Old Walla Walla County. Vol. I and II. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1918.
- McCracken, Roy, and Mitchell, Frank. The Walla Walla Story. Walla Walla: Walla Walla Union Bulletin, 1953.
- MacLeod, R. C., ed. "Growth of Whitman College". Up-To-The-Times Magazine, Vol. 1 No. 2, 1906, 00. 40-45.
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- Reynolds, Helen Baker, Gold, Rawhide and Iron: The Biography of Dorsey Syng Baker. Palo Alto: Pacific Books, 1955.
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- Walla Walla Commercial Club. "Walla Walla, Washington." Walla Walla: Commercial Club, n.d.
- Whitman College. A Digest of the Profile of Whitman College, 1952-1972. n.p., 1972.
- Whitman College and the City of Walla. Diamond Jubilee Celebration -- Official Souvenir Program: A Community Festival. Walla Walla: Inland Printing, 1934.

