

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 14 1977
DATE ENTERED OCT 28 1977

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

St. John's Hall

AND/OR COMMON

St. John's Military Academy

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Genessee Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Delafield

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

9th

STATE

Wisconsin 53018

___ VICINITY OF

CODE

055

COUNTY

Waukesha

CODE

133

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

___ PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

___ AGRICULTURE

___ MUSEUM

___ BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ COMMERCIAL

___ PARK

___ STRUCTURE

___ BOTH

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

___ OBJECT

___ IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

___ GOVERNMENT

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ BEING CONSIDERED

___ YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ NO

___ MILITARY

___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

St. John's Military Academy, Attn: Col. Archie J. Knight, Director of Development

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Delafield

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 53018

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Waukesha County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

515 West Moreland Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Waukesha

STATE

Wisconsin 53186

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1976

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. John's Military Academy is located in the northwestern residential section of the small city of Delafield. Massive Neo-English Gothic buildings with towers and castellated battlements repose on wide expanses of tree-studded lawns. A flagpole in the drill field (#16 on the map) is the visual focus of the school, with most of the major sites forming a "U" around it.

The school was begun in 1884, in St. John's Hall, the small, abandoned brick school building (now demolished) of St. John Chrysostom Church (#1 on the map). The church, which was placed on the Register in 1972, sits at one corner of the district at the summit of a wooded knoll on otherwise relatively flat land. The two-story frame rectory (#3) served as the school's first dormitory, infirmary and dining hall. The school grew quickly, and from 1885 through the 1890's four large buildings were added: Armitage Hall, a simple shingle style dormitory-classroom building (1885); DeKoven Hall, a massive, four-story Gothic Revival building (1889); Memorial Hall, a curious Late Picturesque composition (1893); and Kemper Hall, another distinctive Late Picturesque melange of shingle, Neo-Classical, and Richardsonian Romanesque elements (1894). Of these, only Memorial Hall (#4) remains. (Descriptions of individual buildings can be found in the key to the map.) The boldly rusticated fieldstone masonry of Memorial Hall was repeated in the construction of Knight Hall (#9), a dormitory and classroom building which replaced the wooden Armitage Hall, which was destroyed by fire in 1902. After fire consumed DeKoven Hall in 1906, the new DeKoven Hall (#10) was erected. This massive Neo-Gothic edifice designed by Thomas Van Alyea set the style for the remainder of the academy's structures which have been built since then (fire destroyed another wooden building, Scott Johnston Hall, shortly after it was built in 1919). Van Alyea was commissioned to design almost all of them and they were all constructed of lannonstone, a locally-favored gray dolomite with sand-colored tinges quarried in Lannon, Wisconsin.

Also located on the campus are several faculty houses, the most important of which, both architecturally and historically, is "Rossllyn," the home of the founder of the academy, Dr. Sidney T. Smythe.

The boundaries of the district include most of the legal parcel known as St. John's Military Academy property #5 (the School property) and the property owned by the Vestry and Wardens of St. John Chrysostom Parish. The eastern boundary follows Genessee Street. It was determined by a change in historical significance and a visual change in land use. Massive school and church buildings turning their backs or sides to the street on one side oppose very low-density housing on the other. The southern line runs down the middle of Exeter Street. To the north are several of the original, massive stone Gothic Revival school buildings. To the south of Exeter Street are more school buildings in a similar style, but they are of recent vintage and less imposing scale, design, and concentration. The western edge of the district lies along the center of Williams Street, except for a jog to include the historic parade field, in use since the school was established in 1884. West of the boundary lies the green open space of the school's golf course. The northern boundary runs along the center of Wisconsin Avenue, to include all of St. John's Road, the major ceremonial entrance to the academy and to include both Rossllyn, the home of the founder of the academy, and five other residences which were built by the school to house important members of its faculty. The Holt Alumni House,

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Vestry and Wardens of St. John Chrysostom Parish
Delafield, Wisconsin 53018

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

built by Dr. Smythe about the same time as Rosslyn was built, and the Headmaster's House of 1967, are centers of campus activity. The Widow Smythe House, the Farrand House, and the Commandant's House have been homes of the leading educators of the institution since they were built. To the north of Wisconsin Avenue is a low-density residential area. One residential property owned by the academy north of the boundary was excluded because it has no connection with the history of the academy.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Association with his- torically important personages.	

SPECIFIC DATES: Founded 1884

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. John's Military Academy is significant both architecturally and historically. The main campus buildings are of architectural interest because all were built to complement each other in design and appearance. Of English Gothic design, with castellated roofs, towers and battlements of stone, they form an harmonious and imposing group. Representing a distinctive type of education, the school is the oldest military academy in Wisconsin and is one of only two remaining in the state.

In 1851, James Cox of Philadelphia built St. John Chrysostom Church (an NRHP property, #1 on the map) as a parish church for his brother-in-law, Rev. William Markoe, who was a faculty member of the nearby Nashotah Theological Seminary (also on the Register). Rev. Markoe then built a 20 by 40 foot schoolhouse, near the present site of Knight Hall (#9). At the same time he built a small frame house for his rectory (#3).

Just as these buildings were completed, Dr. James DeKoven came from Columbia University to the Nashotah staff and succeeded the Rev. Markoe as rector of St. John Chrysostom. He established a school in the schoolhouse which he hoped would become a preparatory college for young men planning to enter the theological seminary, but it lasted only one year. In 1859, Bishop Kemper transferred Dr. DeKoven to Racine College. Dr. DeKoven abandoned the school in Delafield and took his twenty pupils with him to Racine.

In 1879 Dr. DeKoven died. One of his pupils at the time, Sidney T. Smythe from Massachusetts, was so grieved by his mentor's death that he resolved to become a religious educator. Upon graduation from St. Stephen's College at Annandale-on-the-Hudson, Smythe came back to Wisconsin to prepare for the ministry at Nashotah House. While still an undergraduate, he held services at St. John Chrysostom and, following Dr. DeKoven's example, reopened the abandoned schoolhouse as a preparatory school in 1884. The rectory was used as the school's first dormitory, dining hall, and infirmary. Smythe graduated from Nashotah in 1886 and devoted the rest of his life to building the academy. In 1889, with a reserve of fifty-four dollars, he built the first DeKoven Hall.

St. John's attracted students of high caliber, including soldier-novelist Brigadier General Charles King. The son of Rufus King, soldier, diplomat, and editor, who moved to Milwaukee in 1845 and became influential in local as well as in international affairs, Charles King graduated from West Point in 1866 and served in the army for a number of years. He was professor of military tactics at the University of Wisconsin, inspector and instructor for the Wisconsin National Guard and later State Adjutant General (1895-1897). He also wrote Famous and Decisive Battles of the World. After a call to active duty in the Spanish-American War, he came to St. John's to teach military

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1960.
 Knight, Col. Archie J., Director of Development, St. John's Military Academy, typewritten information.
Old Boys' Alumni Association Newsletter, St. John's Military Academy, Bicentennial Issue, [1976].
St. John's Proposal, 1976-'77, xeroxed manuscript.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 20 acres
 UTM REFERENCES

A	[1,6]	[3,8,5 6,9,0]	[4,7 6,8 8,7,0]	B	[1,6]	[3,8,5 6,8,5]	[4,7 6,8 5,9,0]
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	[1,6]	[3,8,5 2,8,0]	[4,7 6,8 6,1,0]	D	[1,6]	[3,8,5 2,8,0]	[4,7 6,8 8,2,5]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

E 1 6 3 8 5 2 2 0 4 7 6 8 4 1 0
 F 1 6 3 8 5 2 2 5 4 7 6 8 4 9 5

Starting at the intersection of Genessee Street and Exeter Street, the boundary line proceeds westerly along the center line of Exeter Street to the center line of Williams Street thence northerly to the southern boundary of the parade field. The line then turns westerly to the western edge of the parade field, thence northerly to the northern edge, thence easterly back to the center line of Williams Street. It follows Williams Street north to

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE
 Katherine E. Hundt, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION
 State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE
 October 10, 1977

STREET & NUMBER
 816 State Street

TELEPHONE
 608-262-2970

CITY OR TOWN
 Madison

STATE
 Wisconsin 53706

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 National Park Service

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Richard R. Hurney

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE 10/11/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Donald M. Greenberg, Acty.

DATE 10-28-77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF PROBATION AND PAROLE, WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Carol D. Shull for Charles H. Hurney*

DATE 10-28-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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science and tactics and to institute the military program at the academy.¹

Other of the academy's more famous alumni include Dan Gerber, who founded the baby food industry, diplomat and writer George Kennan, Harry Wismer, sports announcer and owner of several football teams, and movie actor Jack Carson.

St. John's is an influential educational force in its region, drawing most of its students from the metropolitan areas of southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. It also attracts cadets from twenty-eight other states and fourteen foreign countries. Founded as an Episcopal school, it is now non-denominational Christian. The philosophy of the military type of education was adopted at St. John's to emphasize equality, to instill self-discipline for later life and to provide team spirit and leadership qualities. St. John's was one of the few military schools to survive the effects of the anti-war movement. But the philosophies introduced to St. John's by Brig. General King, combined with the school's original religious intentions, represent a distinctive side of the American spirit.

KEY TO MAP

Buildings and Sites of Primary Importance

1. St. John Chrysostom Church, 1851-1853, Richard Upjohn, designer, a NRHP site on a wooded knoll. HABS.
2. Old cemetery of St. John Chrysostom Church.
3. Rectory of St. John Chrysostom Church, 1857. Built as a rectory for the church, this small, two-story early picturesque house is frame covered with shingles. It has a one-story wing and a veranda with simple decorative soffit and brackets. The front door has narrow sidelights. In 1884 the house served as the academy's first dormitory, infirmary, and dining hall. It is now the chaplain's residence.
4. Memorial Hall, 1893, John A. Moller, Milwaukee, architect. Memorial Hall is a curious adaptation of the shingle style. Two huge witches' -cap roofs are connected by a short, two-story, gable-roofed segment. The first-story foundation consists of protruding Delafield fieldstones cemented closely together with little visible mortar, and smooth stone trim. The second story is shingled. Tiny stuccoed entrance pavilions on each end were added when the large, arched entrances on each side were blocked up. The

1. Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 206-207.

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KEY TO MAP (continued)

structure was built as a gymnasium. A second level floor was later added and the building became a chapel, study hall, and classrooms. Since 1935 it has housed a library with timber-supported ceiling, and classrooms below.

5. Dr. Sidney Thomas Smythe House, 1901, John A. Moller, architect. Called "Rosslyn" by Dr. Smythe, this low, rambling, very late picturesque house is of an odd but pleasing design. Several of the first-story walls are faced with Delafield fieldstone similar to the masonry on Memorial Hall. The rest of the first-story is clapboard and the walls above are shingled. A very wide veranda wraps around two sides of the house. The veranda roof is decorated with brackets and supported by Doric columns with exaggerated entasis. The main entrance leads one into a large central hall flanked by a living area on one side and a stairhall on the other. These rooms are separated from the central hall by open, slatted screens which end at fluted Roman Ionic columns. The living area is lit by large picture windows under the veranda and features a huge red brick fireplace with oak mantel. Behind the living room is the dining room which is panelled to the plate rail with dark-stained Norwegian pine. Upstairs, many bedrooms surround a square central hall. The master bedroom has a quaint and tiny tiled fireplace. The house is commonly called the "Lerch House" after Major Edison B. Lerch, retired director of Athletics, who lived there for many years until the early 1970's. Its current occupants will be moving soon and the future of the building is uncertain.
6. The Beacon, 1923. The eternal light has served as a symbol of the school since it was built. The small fieldstone structure is engraven on each side with quotations of the school's founder.
7. Victory Memorial Chapel, 1921-1926, Thomas Van Alyea, Milwaukee, architect. Lannonstone chapel was modelled after the Chapel at West Point. This simple, gable-roofed structure has wide, pointed-arch windows separated by wall buttresses. The one-story side aisles line the sides and two short, conically-roofed octagonal towers flank the main entrance. A brilliantly-executed rose window lights the altar. The interior features stone walls with some brick-work in the aisles constructed of bricks salvaged from Bishop White Hall at Nashotah House Seminary where Dr. Smythe studied. In the summer of 1976, the roof was replaced but the interior timbers were left intact. The stained glass windows were also replaced with modern, abstractly-designed windows. The tiny windows in the aisles remain.

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KEY TO MAP (continued)

Buildings and Sites of Secondary Importance

8. Parade Field. In use since the academy opened in 1884.
9. Knight Hall, 1902, William Jacobson, Delafield, builder. Three-story classroom structure built of Delafield fieldstone with lighter and smoother stone trim in the same manner as Memorial Hall and the Smythe house. Two-story bays flank the entrance on each long side. In 1966, the windows were remodelled in a design harmonious with the original structure.
10. DeKoven Hall, 1906, Thomas Van Alyea, architect. Massive, four-story stone barracks and administration building was the first building on campus designed by Thomas Van Alyea. Its design set the style for all of the later buildings constructed. Large, octagonal turrets and towers, and wide, pointed-arch entrances give the asymmetrical composition its picturesque appearance. Windows are trimmed with red brick, giving a hint of the more extensive use of red brick, which is mixed with stone walls and wood floors and ceilings, on the interior. The building was remodelled after a fire in 1940.
11. Welles Hall, 1906, Thomas Van Alyea, architect. Large dining hall and barracks attached to DeKoven Hall and of the same style, it features a large rectangular clock tower. It also was remodelled after the 1940 fire.
12. Hazelwood Hall, 1927, Thomas Van Alyea, architect. Two-story stone building of simple design similar to DeKoven Hall but with stone window trim and more carefully-executed stonework. It houses barracks and classrooms.
13. Scott Johnston Hall, 1930, Thomas Van Alyea, architect. Large addition to Hazelwood Hall of the same materials but with more decorative details such as an orielled round turret on a corner and an entrance pavilion decorated with an orielled bay and flanked asymmetrically by one octagonal turret. This classroom building is currently not in use but will be reopened soon.
14. Smythe Hall, 1929, Thomas Van Alyea, architect. Large, three-story classroom building incorporates the wide, pointed arches, rose windows and wall buttresses of the nearby chapel. It features masonry of large rusticated stone blocks, some red brick window trim, and corner towers.

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KEY TO MAP (continued)

15. Drill Field. Another important open space, this field is the center of the campus and the visual focus.

Linkage Buildings and Sites:

16. Farrand Gymnasium and Gerber Indoor Pool, 1947 and 1965, Thomas Van Alyea, architect. The lannonstone and brick structure and corner turrets of the other buildings on campus are retained on this essentially utilitarian-designed building.
17. Gord Hall, 1962, Thomas Van Alyea, architect. Lannonstone building similar in size and shape to its neighbor, Knight Hall, this classroom building has a large rectangular entrance tower at one corner.
18. Cyril W. Nave Gateway, 1968. Two, rectangular, lannonstone towers support a metal arch which spans the main entrance. The arch bears the school's name and its coat-of-arms.
19. Widow Smythe House, 1922. Colonial Revival house with gambrel roof and stuccoed first story.
20. Widow Farrand House, 1922. Two-story, stuccoed house is in an abstract version of the Tudor Revival style.
21. Commandant's House, 1923. Frame, 1-1/2 story bungalow.
22. Holt Alumni House. Large, frame, two-story bungalow.
23. Argonne Gate, 1940. Not shown on the map, this picturesque Gothic Revival gate of castellated lannonstone is located between Knight and Welles Halls.
24. Headmaster's House, 1967. Large, frame, Colonial Revival house of appropriate dignity but little architectural merit.
25. Tennis Courts, early 1950's.

Intrusion:

26. Parish House. One-story redwood and brick structure of recent construction.

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to the center line of Wisconsin Avenue, thence easterly to the center line of Genessee Street, thence southerly to the starting point.



- Buildings and Sites of Primary Importance
- Buildings and Sites of Secondary Importance
- Linkage Buildings and Sites
- Intrusions

Map not to scale.