

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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received

OCT 11 1984

date entered

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**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 Park Region Luther College

and/or common Hillcrest Lutheran Academy

2. Location

street & number 715 West Vernon Ave.

N/A not for publication

city, town Fergus Falls

N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota

code 22

county Otter Tail

code 111

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Church of the Lutheran Brethren

street & number 1009 Westside Dr.

city, town Fergus Falls

N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Otter Tail County Courthouse - Registrar of Deeds

street & number Court St. at Junius Ave.

city, town Fergus Falls

state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982

federal state county local

depository for survey records Minn. Historical Society - Ft. Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul

state Minnesota

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The main building of the former Park Region Luther College is a four-story, Victorian Romanesque structure built of red Menominee brick. It occupies a site in the center of a full city block in the southwest part of Fergus Falls. The building sits on a raised foundation of brick. The main entrance is centered in a narrow, gabled, projecting pavillion. Doors are recessed into a compound arched portal. A massive, gabled dormer forms the top of the pavillion. Extended piers flank the dormer. Patterned brick work marks the gable. Three, narrow-arched windows are segmented by heavy sandstone lintels. The fenestration on the first floor consists of arched windows, with rectangular, double-sash windows below the arches. Tan brick hood molds with corner stops surmount these windows. On the second floor, rectangular windows are used. The third floor has windows like those on the first; here the hood molds connect the windows with a belt course of brick. A similar belt course marks the ceiling level of the first floor. Sandstone is used for lintels, the cornerstone, and decorative bands.

The fourth floor is a dormered attic story with hipped roof and multiple gabled dormers above a dentillated cornice. The frame dormers are painted to match the brick work of the lower floor window surrounds and belt coursing. Double-sash windows have painted arches above. Several spires project from the roof, including a central, pencil-point spire atop an octagonal belfry. The belfry has arched openings with louvers and a conical roof.

A two-story gymnasium added to the south facade between 1909 and 1915 continues the belt course between the first and second floor. Windows are smaller, but generally matched the arched first floor windows and the rectangular second floor windows of the original building. The gym was enlarged by 1929. A concrete block coal bin, there in 1929, has now been enlarged and faced in matching brick. It is set into the corner between the gym and main building at the rear of the structure and is used as the music room.

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 type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1901, c. 1909-15 **Builder/Architect** Omeyer and Thori, Minneapolis

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The former Park Region Luther College main building, now Hillcrest Lutheran Academy, is significant for its contribution to Fergus Falls' function as an educational center for the surrounding area and for the quality of its architectural design. The Norwegian Lutheran Synod established the Park Region Luther College in Fergus Falls in 1892. In 1900 they sought to upgrade the college facilities with a new college building. The plans called for staying in Fergus Falls if the city would provide a free building site and give \$10,000. Land bordering on the Otter Tail River, fifteen acres in all, was provided in the southwestern part of the city. The new main building was constructed in 1901 on plans by Minneapolis architects Omeyer and Thori. A 1902 newspaper report said of the imposing Victorian Romanesque structure: "Even the view from the city, imposing as it is, and eliciting expressions of admiration from citizens and astonishment from visitors, scarcely does the building justice. It is not until it has been approached, and not until it has been viewed from various directions, that its true proportions are fully appreciated." The building housed virtually all the college functions - offices, classrooms, a library, chapel, dormitory rooms, kitchen, and dining hall. Between 1909 and 1915 a gymnasium was added to the structure. The gym was enlarged before 1929.

The college closed in 1932, a victim of the Depression. In 1935, the Church of the Lutheran Brethren moved their Lutheran Brethren Schools onto the campus from Wahpeton, North Dakota. They operate the school today as the Hillcrest Lutheran Academy, thus maintaining the building's function as a center of education.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Mason, John W. (ed.). History of Otter Tail County, Minnesota. B.F. Bowen and Co., Indianapolis, 1916. Vol. II, pp. 435-437.
Fergus Falls Journal, March 15, 1900.
Fergus Falls Weekly Journal, January 9, 1902.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property app. 2 acres

Quadrangle name Fergus Falls, Minn.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	4	7	2	4	5	3	5	5	1	2	8	8	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 15, Riverside Addn. City of Fergus Falls.

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

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas Harvey, Contract Historian

organization N/A date 21 November 1983

street & number 1916 Drew Ave. S. telephone (612) 920-6917

city or town Minneapolis state Minnesota

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley
Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9/26/84

For NPS use only

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

J. Allore Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 11-8-84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration