

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 10 1977

DATE ENTERED

AUG 16 1977

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

\*\* Old Main -- Macalester College

AND/OR COMMON

Old Main -- Macalester College

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1600 Grand Avenue

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

22

COUNTY

Ramsey

CODE

123

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

\_\_DISTRICT

 BUILDING(S)

\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_SITE

\_\_OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

\_\_PUBLIC

 PRIVATE

\_\_BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED

\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

\_\_YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_NO

## PRESENT USE

\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_MILITARY

\_\_MUSEUM

\_\_PARK

\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_TRANSPORTATION

 OTHER: offices**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Macalester College Board of Trustees

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1600 Grand Avenue

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Ramsey County Courthouse -- Registry of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

15 West Kellogg Blvd.

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1976

\_\_FEDERAL  STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society - Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Old Main was designed by the St. Paul institutional architect William H. Willcox. The building is an example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style of architecture popular during the period of the building's construction. The structural system of the building is wood frame with brick masonry bearing walls throughout and cast iron supports in the basement level of the main portion.

Old Main was built in two stages. The east wing was completed in 1884. The main portion and concourse were completed in 1888. The east wing is three stories high on a full rusticated limestone basement. The wing is built on a rectangular plan and the roof is comprised of two intersecting gables. Originally a flesche was located at the ridge and to the north of the gable intersection. The principal gable contained a large round arch with inset rose window. The upper area of the gable contained decorative terra cotta. This entire section has been covered with vertical lap siding.

The main wing of the building is more elaborate. It is three stories high with a full rusticated limestone basement. The hipped roof is multi-gabled and dormered. The north facade or principal facade is symmetrical and comprised of five bays. The symmetry is broken only by a tower which is located to the right of the front portico. The front portico is constructed of limestone and brick. The dominant features of the portico are the carved columns capped with foliate capitals.

The windows on the first story are surrounded by semi-circular arches, on the second level with segmental arches, on the third level the windows are grouped and separated by columns to form an arcade. The attic level gables are faced with a decorative band of terra cotta in a combination of geometric and floral motifs.

The interior floor plan and room arrangement have been changed over the years to accommodate the needs of a growing institution. Although in fair condition, original door casings, newell posts, and wood floors remain intact. The interior is devoted to administrative and staff offices.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1884 - present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William H. Willcox

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Old Main is the oldest extant building associated with the one hundred twenty four year history of Macalester College. Macalester College is the outgrowth of the Baldwin School of St. Paul, organized by the notable educator, author, and historian Edward D. Neill in 1853. In 1874 Charles Macalester, of Philadelphia, donated the Winslow House (razed ca.1890) near the Falls of St. Anthony, with the understanding that the school would be developed into a college. The institution was named Macalester College in his honor. In 1883 a syndicate of trustees bought the present site on Snelling Avenue for the location of the campus. The east wing of Old Main was constructed in 1884 and the college opened in 1885. The main section and concourse were completed by 1888.

Old Main is a four story brick and stone building designed by William H. Willcox in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. The architectural firm of Willcox and Johnston was noted for mansion type houses on Summit Avenue in St. Paul (located within a National Register district) and southern Minnesota, churches and institutional buildings throughout the Midwest area.

