

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received OCT 1 1986  
date entered NOV 6 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Administration Building/ Girls' Dormitory, Minnesota School for the Deaf

and/or common Tate Hall, Minnesota School for the Deaf

2. Location

street & number Minnesota Highway 299 N/A not for publication

city, town Faribault N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Rice code 131

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Minnesota Dept. of Education - Ruth E. Randall, Commissioner

street & number 712 Capitol Square Building; 550 Cedar Street

city, town St. Paul N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 55101

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds- Rice County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Faribault state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State-Owned Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1977-1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 Minnesota School for the Deaf is located on Faribault's eastern side, high on the limestone bluff overlooking the Straight River and downtown Faribault. Defining the eastern edge of the school commons, Tate Hall is the most prominent building on campus, its monumental portico and steeple providing a strong visual image for the school. The freestanding, two-and-one-half-story (raised basement) building is laid out as a central block flanked by two wings with terminal pavilions. The terminal pavilions, however, have no independent roofs: the low-pitched hipped roof is continuous over the entire length of the building in a manner characteristic of the contemporaneous Prairie School.

The masonry bearing walls are of the same locally-quarried limestone used throughout the campus. Dressed, coursed ashlar is used for the basement story, the same rubbed finish appearing on the portico, window sills and lintels, and door surrounds. In the remaining two stories the stone is rock-faced, uncoursed and roughly squared.

Floors are of concrete slab construction. The roof is framed in wood, with steel framing supporting the steeple. The ends of the wood rafters supporting the broadly overhanging eaves are sawn in an ornamental pattern. The present grey asphalt shingles are the second reroofing since the original slate was replaced, the only significant alteration to the building. Single-window dormers with similarly broad hipped roofs penetrate the main roof at regular intervals.

The most prominent feature of the building is the Christopher Wren/James Gibbs-derived combination of portico and steeple defining the western edge of the central block. Standing on the basement story and approached by a single flight of stairs, the colossal order hexastyle prostyle portico is Corinthian but quite plain: the columns are unfluted, the frieze is unornamented, and the tympanum, of the same uncoursed stone as the body of the building, is occupied only by a bulls-eye window. The modestly-scaled, three-tiered steeple over the crossing recalls Georgian sources, as do the restrained door surrounds at the main entrance and secondary entrances at the midpoints of the two wings. The tripartite window over the main entrance is capped by a semielliptical fanlight.

A single-story, colonnaded porch in wood crosses the end elevation of each end pavilion and constitutes the only ornament or enrichment of these facades. The back (east) elevation is even more severe, being marked only by a single-story wood and stucco portico at the central entry. The attenuated, paired columns and the closely spaced balusters are typical of the "Craftsman" influence in domestic architecture of the period. The east wall of the central block behind this portico is framed in wood and clad in stucco, in preparation for a projected dining wing that was never built. In the entire building, only the ad hoc placement of the stone chimneys departs from absolute symmetry.

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National Park Service**

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Administration Bldg./Girls' Dormitory, MN School for the Deaf

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Continuation sheet

Ownership

Item number

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Page

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Notification copies sent to:

Mr. Wade Karli  
Academy Administrator  
State Academies for Deaf and Blind  
Box 308  
Faribault, Minnesota 55021

Sandra J. Hale, Commissioner  
Department of Administration  
200 State Administration Building  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Colin McAdam  
Assistant Superintendent  
State Academies for Deaf and Blind  
Box 308  
Faribault, MN 55021

Ted Suss  
Department of Education  
705 Capitol Square Building  
550 Cedar St.  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

# 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 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** 1912-1913      **Builder/Architect** Clarence H. Johnston, Sr., St. Paul, Minnesota

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Minnesota School for the Deaf, the second public institution established by the state, was authorized by the 1858 legislature as a "deaf and dumb asylum," and opened in 1863. The major nineteenth-century buildings have been demolished. The centerpiece of the present campus, Tate Hall is a well-preserved example of the solid monumental architecture built around the turn of this century for the state's social institutions. Many of these buildings are the work of the same architect, Clarence H. Johnston, Sr., who served as State Architect during the century's first three decades. Another of Johnston's major buildings, the School for the Deaf's Noyes Hall, is already listed on the National Register.

Tate Hall's symmetrical Palladian plan and Georgian-inspired details are contrasted with reminders of the building's specific time and place-- rustic masonry and the single, broadly overhanging, low-pitched hipped roof--in a unified and serene composition. Derived from the work of Christopher Wren and James Gibbs, the central combination of a monumental, simply-detailed Corinthian portico with a refined, three-tiered steeple is a particularly successful application of the classical influence which was being strongly felt in public buildings during this period. The most distinguished of three buildings surviving from the old campus plan realized during the administration of its namesake, Dr. James N. Tate, Tate Hall continues to serve its original purpose almost completely unaltered.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Faribault, Minnesota

Quadrangle scale 1: 24000

### UTM References

A	<u>15</u>	<u>479300</u>	<u>4905720</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification** From the northwest corner of the intersection of 6th Avenue East and 5th Street Northeast, proceed north 300' to Point 1. Thence proceed north 400' to Point 2; thence west 200' to Point 3; thence south 400' to Point 4; thence east 200' to return to Point 1. (Numbered points refer to sketch map.)

### 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 Robert Ferguson, Research Associate

organization MacDonald and Mack Partnership date 30 September, 1985

street & number 305 Grain Exchange telephone 612-341-4051

city or town Minneapolis state Minnesota 55415

# 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

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9/23/86

For NPS use only

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

Alvina Byers Entered in the National Register

date 11-6-86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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**National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet    Resource Count    Item number 8

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The Administration Building/Girls' Dormitory, Minnesota School for the Deaf Nomination, contains 1 contributing building.

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Tate Hall, Minnesota School for the Deaf

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Continuation sheet Bibliographical References Item number 9

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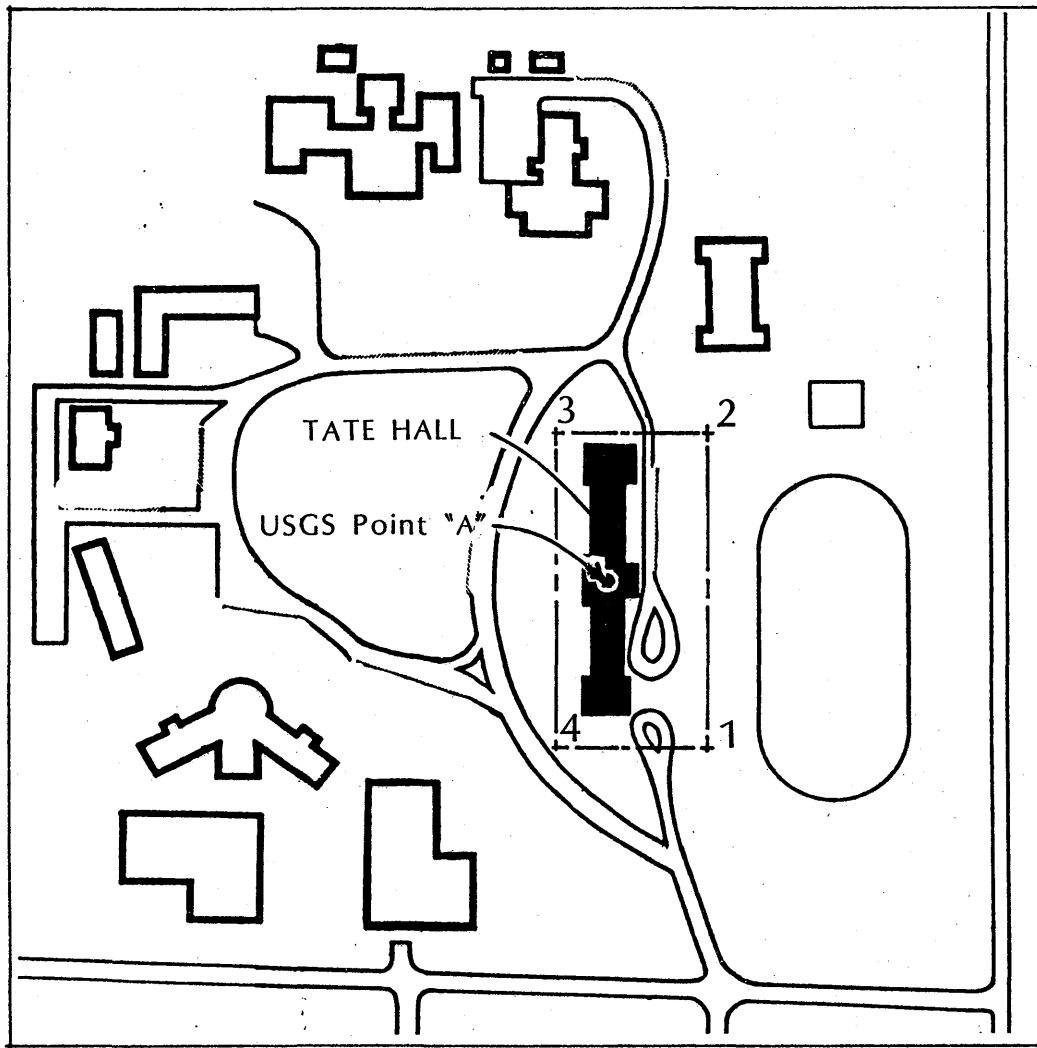
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lauritsen, Wesley. History of Minnesota School for the Deaf, 1863-1963. Faribault, Minnesota: Minnesota School for the Deaf, 1963.

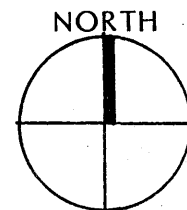
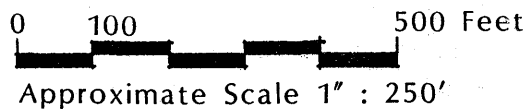
Murphy, Patricia. The Public Buildings of the State of Minnesota: An Architectural Heritage. St. Paul, Minnesota: State Historic Preservation Office of the Minnesota Historical Society, July, 1985.

Various historic photographs on file in the School Museum, Minnesota School for the Deaf.

Construction drawings: "Administration Building, State School for the Deaf, Faribault, Minnesota. C. H. Johnston, Architect, St. Paul, Minn." Photocopies of four sheets on file at Minnesota School for the Deaf.



TATE HALL Minnesota School for the Deaf



Source: Map, "Minnesota School for the Deaf, Faribault, Minnesota," n.d.