

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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



Old Main - Gustavus Adolphus College

AND/OR COMMON

Old Main - Gustavus Adolphus College

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Gustavus Adolphus College Campus

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

St. Peter

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

27

COUNTY

Nicollet

CODE

103

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
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Gustavus Adolphus College

STREET & NUMBER

Gustavus Adolphus College Campus

CITY, TOWN

St. Peter

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Nicollet County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

South Minnesota Street

CITY, TOWN

St. Peter

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1973

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY 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 checked="" 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Old Main at Gustavus Adolphus College is located on a promontory in the geographic center of the campus. It is an imposing and elegant focal point within the campus complex.

Built in 1875-76 according to the design of one of St. Paul's leading architects, E.P. Bassford, the exterior of the building embodies many features characteristic of the Italianate style. The basic plan of the building is rectangular, measuring 90'6" in length and 60'2" in width with a central hallway on the three main floors and basement. It is constructed of locally quarried Kasota stone blocks. The well defined Kasota stone blocks are broken at the corners by quoins and at the central entry by a projecting pavilion. The three bay facade is defined by three couplings of round headed and segmentally arched windows. The slightly pitched roof is surmounted by an ornate cupola.

The exterior of the building has undergone minor alterations since its construction. The four/four wooden sash windows have been replaced with aluminum combination windows. The decorative fanlight over the main entry and the double oak doors have been sympathetically replaced with modern appointments. The projecting eaves and cupola have been painted a light ochre and the six chimneys have been removed.

From 1876-1884 Old Main housed all of the college's facilities including classrooms, labs, offices, a dining area, a chapel, and the president's living quarters. In order to accommodate the growing needs of the college Old Main has undergone interior alterations. Additional classrooms and lab space were provided by partitioning off the original classrooms. Many of the ceilings have been lowered and fluorescent lights added. The basic floor plan of the interior, hardwood floors, and woodwork have remained intact.

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 1875 - present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT O.N. Ostrom/E.P. Bassford

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Old Main stands as the historic symbol of Gustavus Adolphus College. Architecturally, Old Main is significant as a fine example of the Italianate style which flourished in Minnesota's river towns during the 1870s.

Old Main is the oldest standing building associated with the history of Gustavus Adolphus College and has been in continual use for almost 100 years. The college was founded by Reverend Erik Norelius, famous for his pioneer work in the Lutheran Church, in 1862 at Red Wing, Minnesota. In 1863 the college was relocated at East Union where it met with limited success until 1875. In that year the college was moved to St. Peter and Old Main was constructed at a cost of \$25,000.

Old Main has long been considered the pride of the town as well as of the synod. It is one of two historic St. Peter buildings designed by the St. Paul architect E.P. Bassford. The integrity of design and the structural quality of the building insure the continued use of Old Main as a college facility.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blueprints, Board of Trustees minutes, Scrapbooks etc. in Gustavus Adolphus Archives.
 Gresham, Honorable William G., History of Nicollet and LeSueur Counties, (Indianapolis:1916).
 Lund, Dr. Doniver, Centennial History of Gustavus Adolphus College, 1962.
 Peterson, Dr. Conrad, Remember Thy Past: Gustavus Adolphus College's First 90 Years.
St. Peter Herald - November 3, 1926.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

4907

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Lynne VanBrocklin - Survey and Planning

ORGANIZATION

Minnesota Historical Society

DATE

16 September 1975

STREET & NUMBER

Building 25, Fort Snelling

TELEPHONE

612-726-1171

CITY OR TOWN

St. Paul

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

TITLE Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 10/31/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

Sam J. ...

DATE 5/12/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Attest

Charles ...

DATE 5.11.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER