

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **AUG 24 1976**

DATE ENTERED **DEC 12 1976**

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Racine College

AND/OR COMMON

DeKoven Foundation for Church Work

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

600 21st Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Racine

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 53403

CODE

55

COUNTY

Racine

CODE

101

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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

DeKoven Foundation for Church Work, % Sister Mary Letitia, Director

STREET & NUMBER

600 21st Street

CITY, TOWN

Racine

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 53403

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Racine County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Racine

STATE

Wisconsin 53403

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin's Historic Preservation Plan, Volume II: The Inventory

DATE

1971

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

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

Racine College/DeKoven Foundation consists of eight buildings situated on forty acres of land bordered on the north by DeKoven Avenue, the east by South Wisconsin Avenue, the south by Twenty-first Street and the west by Grand Avenue. The buildings are arranged in a rectangle (see attached site plan) which is defined on the east side by four linked buildings: Park Hall, Assembly Hall, the Dining Hall, and Kemper Hall, and on the west side by three, free-standing buildings, Taylor Hall, the gym, and the gatehouse. At the approximate center of the rectangle, on axis with the center of the connected buildings, is St. John's Chapel. All the buildings are constructed of cream colored brick and have Gothic Revival details.

The connected buildings form a symmetrical composition marked at the center by a passageway surmounted by a bell tower. Park and Kemper halls form the major elements of the composition, and the dining and assembly halls act as linking buildings. The main facade faces East.

Park Hall, the first Racine College building, was completed in 1853. It burned in January, 1864, but was rebuilt before the end of the year. The building has three-part massing, with each mass divided into three bays covered by gable roofs. At the corners are piers that either contained chimneys or were capped by finials which have since been replaced by pyramidal caps. The entire building rests on a high, cut-stone foundation. The bays of the two-and-one-half-story flanking masses are divided by buttresses. Over the center of each bay is a dormer window with bargeboards. The floors of all three masses are separated by brick string courses, and all the openings have pointed arches. The three-and-one-half-story center mass is divided by a projecting, castellated, center tower with corner buttresses. The third-story windows of the outer bays have wooden, trefoil tracery. Only the entrances, located in the center bay of each mass, have arch mouldings. The west facade is very plain with no vertical or horizontal divisions except for a dark brick water table. Except for two bulls-eye windows on the third floor, the fenestration is characterized by pointed arches. Three entrances correspond to the entrances on the east facade. Park Hall's interior has been repeatedly altered.

Kemper Hall, built in 1857, has an east facade that was originally identical to Park Hall with the exception of a wooden bay window located on the southeast corner of the center bay; however, sometime c. 1900, a third story was added to the side bays. The west facade, unlike that of Park Hall, is divided into three bays divided by two recesses. All openings have pointed arches. The interior has been remodeled repeatedly.

Assembly Hall and the Dining Hall are one-story, gable-roofed buildings. At the center of each is an entrance porch with buttresses at the corners. On either side of the entrance are three sets of paired, stilted, pointed-arch windows. Dividing the composition into quarters are three dormer windows that provide clerestory light for the interiors. There is brick corbeling under the eaves.

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The east and west facades are identical except that the east facade of the Dining Hall and the west facade of the Assembly Hall have chimneys which do not correspond to anything on the opposite side. The interior of the Assembly Hall has been modified by temporary partitions, but that of the Dining Hall remains intact. Both have heavy wooden trusses supporting the roofs, and the Dining Hall windows are filled with stained glass donated by graduating classes.

There are no internal connections between the Dining Hall and the Assembly Hall. The connecting building provides only a passageway from the east facade to the west facade, and, on the second floor, a classroom. The gable roof of this structure runs at 90° to the gables of the other buildings. At the center of the roof is the bell tower, with an octagonal base and a hexagonal spire. In the gables on each end is a clock surrounded by red brick trim. Along the second floor are six connected windows with red brick pointed arches. The first floor elevation is asymmetrical, with the entrance to the passageway set to one side, and three stilted, red brick pointed-arch windows springing from a cream brick string course completing the facade.

The Chapel, built in 1864, is derived from the English Gothic parish churches, such as St. Michael's, Long Stanton, Cambridgeshire (c. 1230), which, beginning in the mid-1840's, were used as models for churches such as St. James the Less, Philadelphia (1846), and the Chapel of the Cross, Madison County, Mississippi (1850-52), by architects associated with ecclesiological societies.

At the southwest corner is an entrance porch, and on the north side is a wing containing a meeting hall and a c. 1900 porch that serves as an entrance for the clergy. The west facade has corner buttresses and two center buttresses that support a projecting bay with a bell cote ornamented by red brick crosses. The top of the bell cote has been repeatedly struck by lightning, and sometime in the early twentieth century it was shortened and given its present triangular shape. Below, under a red brick pointed arch, is a bulls-eye window placed directly above a pair of lancet windows. In the outer bays are single lancet windows. Red brick trim decorates the eaves. The east facade has corner buttresses, polychromatic trim along the edge of the gable, and a window composed of three lancets and plate tracery. There are lancet windows with red brick arches along the north and south facades. The gable-roofed meeting room wing has a large, round, plate tracery window with red brick trim.

The interior of the chapel is original. On the east end is the altar, and the oak pews face the center aisle. The walls have wainscoting to shoulder height, and off-white plaster extends into the vaults above. Supporting the roof are six oak trusses. At the west end is a choir and organ loft. Underneath are the oak-paneled entrance halls. All the windows have stained glass. Those along the north, south, and west walls depict saints, and the east window depicts three stages in the life of Christ.

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The Gatehouse was built in 1876. It is a rather plain, two-and-one-half-story building with a T-shaped plan and a gable roof. Except for pointed-arch windows in the gables, fenestration is characterized by simple segmental arches. One wing of the building fronts on Twenty-first Street, and the lower level serves as a garage.

The Gymnasium was built in 1875 and has since had two major exterior building campaigns. As originally built, it had a T-shaped plan with each wing being approximately of equal length. Along the gable roofs were dormers. Around 1912-1913 the north wing was extended to make room for an indoor swimming pool, and the dormers on the south wing were removed. Sometime later the south wing received an addition which replicated the original wing. On the east facade the entrance was moved to the center of the new addition, and the fenestration was altered. The building is ornamented by buttresses and corbeled brickwork along the eaves. The most recent addition to the building is the tall, round chimney on the west facade.

Taylor Hall was first built in 1867, but a fire on February 4, 1875, destroyed all but the walls, and the building was rebuilt. It is a three-and-one-half-story mansard-roofed structure divided into three masses with the main facade facing west. Each mass is divided into three bays. The bays of the flankers have two stories of paired, pointed-arch windows below gabled dormers. The center mass has the same fenestration except that the center bay has a square, projecting, three-story tower. Originally the tower was capped by a steep mansard roof, but in the early 1960's this was removed and replaced by the present castellation. Along the cornice of the entire building is corbeled brickwork. All the windows are connected by a pair of brick courses at the sill level and another pair at the level of the arch spring points. The building is set on a high, stone foundation, and at each corner there are brick buttresses. The east elevation reflects that of the west without the tower.

Noteworthy elements of the interior of Taylor Hall are the original bannisters that feature jigsaw ornament and the survival of some of the original furnishings, including carved oak mantelpieces and bookcases.

The campus of Racine College is covered with a variety of trees and broad expanses of lawn. A number of stone paths built in the nineteenth century survive. There is no record of a landscape architect having been associated with any of the campus.

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 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 1852-1876; 1933; 1935

BUILDER/ARCHITECT (1) Lucas Bradley; (2) J. F. Miller

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture. Racine College was aptly described by Mary Ellen Young (then Wieczykowski), who surveyed it in 1971, as "...an unusually interesting, fairly well-preserved set of structures erected in the 1850's, 60's, and 70's as the campus of Racine College--doubtless one of the earliest relatively intact academic ensembles remaining in Wisconsin." It remains so today as all of the buildings still stand and remain in use.

Although various sources over the years have attributed the architecture of at least two of the buildings, Kemper Hall and St. John's Chapel, to Racine's renowned Lucas Bradley,¹ Patton states, "Lucas Bradley's collegiate architecture is well represented not only at Beloit College, where he was architect and builder, but also at Racine College, where he was builder alone, using the plans of J. F. Miller, a New York architect."² There is no question that the Racine College campus and buildings constitute an unusual and unparalleled landmark that is closely tied to the history of Racine and is of architectural significance on a wider basis because of its age, integrity, and lack of structural intrusions within the entire past century.

Education. Racine College was founded in 1852 within the corporate limits of Racine following a convention of Episcopal churchmen assembled in Milwaukee in 1851 to resolve the question of founding an Episcopal college. It was headed by Wisconsin's first Episcopal bishop, the noted Jackson Kemper. The idea of the college, however, was sponsored by the Reverend Dr. Azel Cole, of Nashota Seminary, and the Reverend Dr. Joseph Nichols, of St. Luke's in Racine. "...two laymen, General Philo White and Marshall Strong, got together and worked out plans for the establishment of a college fronting on Lake Michigan... Milwaukee and Racine staged a contest to determine which city could first raise the financial backing of at least \$6,000 and six acres of land. Racine won with a total subscription of more than \$10,000 and a ten-acre site on the south end of town, given by Charles and Truman Wright."³ (Later in its existence, the college's total acreage became 90 acres, of which a large portion comprised the college farm. This was ultimately reduced to a 40-acre campus.)

The college opened on November 15, 1852, with the Reverend Roswell Park of Racine as its first president. It enjoyed both academic and financial success during its first few years, but in 1859 "St. John's Hall, in Delafield, was moved to Racine and merged with the college," evidently due to fear of untoward results of the national financial crisis of 1859.⁴ At this time Racine College was "the most important [Episcopal] church institute west of the Allegheny Mountains."⁵ "The Delafield headmaster, the Reverend James DeKoven, became president of the united schools and reorganized the program to include both grammar and collegiate departments."⁶ A kindly, well-loved, but highly controversial churchman during his lifetime, James

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 40.0

UTM REFERENCES

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A trapezoid bounded on the north by DeKoven Avenue, on the south by 21st Street, on the east by South Wisconsin Avenue, and on the west by Grand Avenue, all within the corporate limits of the City of Racine.

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

Donald N. Anderson, Historian & Registrar, Historic Preservation

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

29 June 1976

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

608/262-0746

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 X

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

James Morton Smith

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

7/23/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Active

DATE

12/12/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

12/6/94

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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DeKoven is now regarded by some as perhaps the most important single figure in the history of the Anglican Church in the United States.^{7,8} Until his death twenty years later, in 1879, the college grew in importance and prominence, and although it continued to hold a respected position in the field of education for some time thereafter, its vitality gradually waned after DeKoven's death. Among its distinguished alumni were Frank Kellogg of Battle Creek; Alfred Lunt, father of the famous American stage actor; General Billy Mitchell, "father" of the Air Force; and, later, General Mark Clark of World War II fame.⁹ Nevertheless, changes in the general nature of higher educational institutions and preparatory schools after the turn of the century, the decline of enrollment following World War I, and the Great Depression beginning in 1929 "at last caught up with it, and on August 8, 1933, the announcement was made that Racine College was no more."¹⁰

The institution's contributions to Racine probably cannot be assessed in total, and Racine is probably unaware of the tremendous return given by the college for the contributions made by the people in establishing the school. In addition to the hospital [St. Luke's, in 1876, for which DeKoven was largely responsible], the faculty had founded Taylor Orphanage, a home for the aged, three missions (Immanuel, St. Stephen's, and Holy Innocents'), and had consistently helped in the work and worship at St. Luke's Church in the heart of the city.¹¹

In 1935, to keep the institution within the Episcopal Church, the Community of St. Mary (Sisters of St. Mary) took over the buildings and grounds, formed a new corporation, and renamed the institution The DeKoven Foundation for Church Work. (In the English tradition, DeKoven is buried on the grounds alongside the chapel.) Since that time the institution has served as a retreat and conference center, a summer camp for girls, and a center for Episcopal Church activities of all kinds. Racine College/DeKoven Foundation, a Wisconsin Registered Landmark, is significant in both educational and social history as well as in its architecture. It has recently been designated an official landmark of the City of Racine.

1. Croft, "A Hundred Years of Racine College and DeKoven Foundation," pp. 251-252
2. Patton, p. 119
3. Croft, op. cit., p. 250
4. Ibid., p. 251
5. "The DeKoven Foundation for Church Work," p. 3
6. Croft, op. cit., p. 251
7. Ibid., p. 254
8. "The DeKoven Foundation for Church Work," p. 4
9. Croft, op. cit., p. 253
10. Ibid., pp. 254-255
11. Ibid., pp. 252-253

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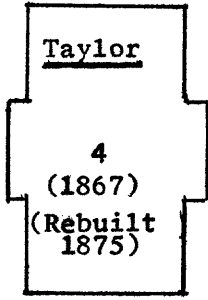
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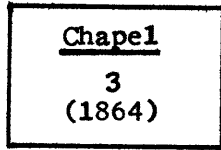
See
CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER below PAGE 1

9. Anonymous, "The DeKoven Foundation for Church Work," Racine, Wis., n.d. (15 pp.)
Anonymous (A Sister of St. Mary), "Was James DeKoven A Saint?" The Living Church, n.p., Oct. 11, 1959 (Reprint, 4 pp., The DeKoven Foundation, Racine)
Croft, Rev. Sydney H., "A Hundred Years of Racine College and DeKoven Foundation," Wisconsin Magazine of History, 35(4):250-256, 1962
"D. A. R. Plaque at DeKoven Foundation," The Milwaukee Churchman, 74(9):8, 1965
"DeKoven, James," Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography (Madison, 1960), 98-99
Patton, Helen, "Lucas Bradley: Carpenter, Builder, Architect," Wisconsin Magazine of History, 58(2):107-124, Winter, 1974-1975
"Racine College," in Portrait and Biographical Album of Racine and Kenosha Counties, Wisconsin (Chicago, 1892), 337-339
11. Richard L. Cleary, Architectural Historian
State Historical Society of Wisconsin 12 July 1976
816 State Street 608/262-2970
Madison Wisconsin 53706

D

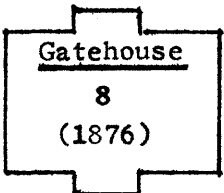
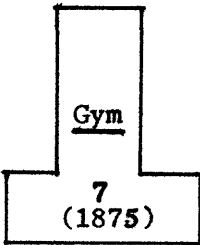


1. Park Hall
2. Kemper Hall
3. Chapel
4. Taylor Hall
5. Dining Hall
6. Assembly Hall
7. Gymnasium & Swimming Pool
8. Gatehouse

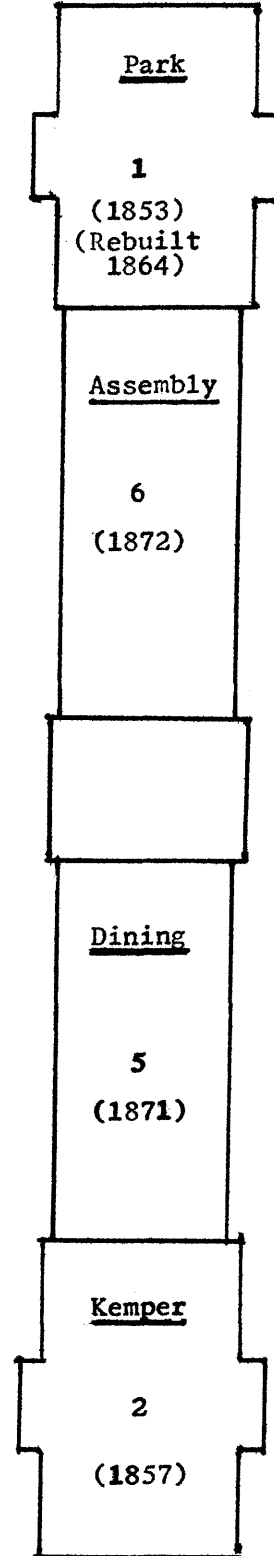


UTM References

- A 16/435820/4728440
- B 16/435740/4728080
- C 16/435460/4728080
- D 16/435460/4728440



A



South Wisconsin Avenue
Front of main complex

RACINE COLLEGE/DE KOVEN FOUNDATION
(Not drawn to scale)

C

B

