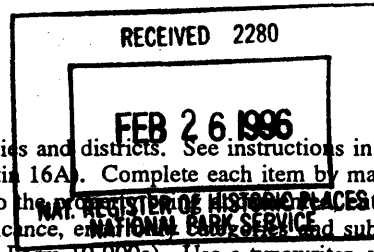


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" on the appropriate line or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter the appropriate function, architectural style, and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name PENN COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
other names/site number William Penn College

2. Location

street & number 201 Trueblood Avenue N/A not for publication
city or town Oskaloosa N/A vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Mahaska code 123 zip code 52577

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this (nomination request for determination of eligibility) meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property (meets does not meet) the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant (nationally statewide locally). See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Patricia O'Connell DSHPO 2-21-96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property (meets does not meet) the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is :
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register.
- Other, (Explain)

Edson H Beall Signature of Keeper Date of Action 4-4-96
Entered in the National Register

Penn College Historic District
Name of Property

Mahaska County, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many lines as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one line)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>		sites
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
		objects
<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

The Quaker Testimony in Oskaloosa, Iowa

**Number of contributing resources
previously listed in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/College

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/College

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Prairie School

LATE LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY

REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

Concrete

roof Asphalt

other Metal

Glass

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Penn College Historic District
Name of Property

Mahaska County, Iowa
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" on all the lines that apply)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1916-1945

Significant Dates

1917-1923

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

A. T. Simmons, and Proudfoot, Bird, and Rawson, architects

Narrative Statement of Significance - (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- previous determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Record
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historical Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository

Penn College Historic District
Name of Property

Mahaska County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 13.75 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

SITE SHOWN ON U.S.G.S. MAP AS RECTANGLE ABC

POINT A 1 | 15 | 5 29 735 | 45 72 990 |

Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

B 2 | 15 | 5 29 735 | 45 72 795 |

Zone Easting Northing

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

C 3 | 15 | 5 29 470 | 45 72 795 |

Zone Easting Northing

D 4 | 15 | 5 29 470 | 45 72 990 |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William C. Page, Public Historian; Joanne R. Walroth

organization Oskaloosa Historic Preservation Commission date October 28, 1994

street & number 520 East Sheridan Avenue telephone 515-243-5740; FAX 515-243-7285

city or town Des Moines state Iowa zip code 50313

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs - Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items - (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name William Penn College

street & number 201 Trueblood Avenue telephone 515-673-1001

city or town Oskaloosa state Iowa zip code 52557

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

Penn College Historic District, Mahaska County, Iowa.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Situated on the crest of a east-west ridge of land and located approximately one miles north of the Oskaloosa City Park in downtown Oskaloosa, Iowa, the Penn College Historic District comprises about 14 acres of land on the outskirts of the city. The district contains ten resources--one site, three structures, and six buildings.

Most of the resources cluster around the Penn College Quadrangle, which is the other site. Penn Hall, the Gymnasium, and Spencer Memorial Chapel form three sides of this quadrangle. Trueblood Avenue defines the fourth. The open space within this collegiate quadrangle is landscaped with entrance features, vehicular drives, pedestrian walks, plantings, and other amenities. Other historic resources, such as the Women's Residence Building (now called Lewis Hall) and the Central Heating Plant are situated at the far corners of this central area and help anchor it.

The approach to the historic district is usually from the south and either along North Market Street or Penn Boulevard. North Market Street stands directly east of the historic district. This approach is marked by an entrance gate at the intersection of Trueblood Avenue and North Market Street. The historic district's presence is also conveyed by Spencer Memorial Chapel, whose east elevation abuts North Market, and Lewis Hall, a women's residential complex, whose east elevation also abuts North Market. The approach along Penn Boulevard is marked by the Gymnasium, which stands as a vista at the terminus of this street.

The result of a master plan, prepared by a professional architect, and implemented over a period of several years, the Penn College Historic District forms a unified design of space, architecture, and function. Influenced by the Prairie School of architecture, this district projects a monumental sense of place, achieved through the placement of buildings and features, as well as elements of their design such as roof configurations, massing, and scale. Spencer Memorial Chapel with its prominent cupola provides a contrasting vertical note to this otherwise horizontal composition.

Although the college's campus has greatly expanded over the years, the Penn College Quadrangle continues today to serve as the focal point of the college because it remains the physical core of the institution.

PENN COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Boundaries

The Penn College Historic District contains approximately 14 acres of land. The edges of the historic campus are demarcated on the south and east by physical features--Trueblood Avenue and North Market Street--and on the north and west by land use areas, which separate the historic campus from later improvements to it.

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Penn College Historic District, Mahaska County, Iowa.

These boundaries contain the entire improved area of the new-site campus as established in 1916 by Penn College.

Resources

The Penn College Historic District contains eleven resources. They include the following eight contributing and three noncontributing resources:

1. SITE

This site is counted as one contributing resource to the historic district.

2. PENN HALL

This building is counted as one contributing resource to the historic district.

3. SPENCER MEMORIAL CHAPEL

This building is counted as one contributing resource to the historic district.

~~4.~~ GYMNASIUM AND ADDITION

This building is counted as one noncontributing resource to the historic district.

5. SOUTHEAST MEMORIAL GATE

This structure is counted as one contributing resource to the historic district.

6. SOUTHWEST MEMORIAL GATE

This structure is counted as one contributing resource to the historic district.

7. WOMEN'S RESIDENCE BUILDING

This building is counted as one contributing resource to the historic district. It is now known as Lewis Hall.

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Penn College Historic District, Mahaska County, Iowa.

8. CENTRAL HEATING PLANT

This building is counted as one contributing resource to the historic district.

9. INDUSTRIAL ARTS BUILDING #1

This building is counted as one noncontributing resource to the historic district.

10. TENNIS COURTS

This structure is counted as one noncontributing resource to the historic district.

INDIVIDUAL RESOURCE DESCRIPTIONS

Site

The site of the Penn College Historic District comprises all land within its boundaries and its natural features. The most important characteristic of these features is the high situation of its site. Located on the crest of a ridge, running east and west, and associated with the topographical transition between the flood plain of the Skunk River and the upland prairie lands, this setting provides the historic district with a commanding view.

The Penn College Quadrangle, a designed historic landscape, is the dominant built feature of this site. It is formed by the combined presence of primary and secondary elements. There are five primary elements--Penn Hall on the north, Spencer Memorial Chapel on the east, Trueblood Avenue on the south, and the Gymnasium and addition on the west. A vehicular drive, a secondary element located directly adjacent to the Gymnasium also defines this edge on the west. Each of these buildings and structures provides a hard edge to the Lawn, which is another primary element in the design.

Other secondary elements give further definition to the Penn College Quadrangle. They include the Southeast Memorial Gate and the Southwest Memorial Gate. Both are located adjacent to Trueblood Avenue and provide entrance features to the quadrangle. The Women's Residence Building and the Central Heating Plant provide additional secondary element to the Penn College Quadrangle and act as corner anchors for it. Because of these strong primary and secondary definitions, the quadrangle Lawn, to which the area is otherwise given over, serves as a dramatic and appealing contrast to them.

The Lawn measures approximately 400' x 320'. It is planted with grass and well maintained. Various species of trees are planted along its perimeter. Several secondary elements embellish the Lawn. They include a central pedestrian walk, running from Trueblood Avenue to the main entrance of Penn Hall, a pedestrian walk located adjacent to Penn Hall on the south, and a system of pedestrian walks accessing Spencer Memorial Chapel. Some portions of these walks were given to the college as class gifts

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Penn College Historic District, Mahaska County, Iowa.

during the 1920s. The Lawn is further enhanced with a central feature located about midway along the central pedestrian walk, namely, a concrete flag stand and pole and a concrete edged flower bed.

Penn Hall

Constructed in 1916-1917, the footprint of Penn Hall measures 287' x 57.5' (length by width) and contains about 1,680 square feet on each of its three floors. The building rests on a foundation of concrete. The structural system of this building is steel frame. Exterior walls are clad with brick and Bedford stone. The shape of the low-pitched roof is hipped with dormers. Originally covered with tile, it has been reroofed twice with asphalt shingles.

The facade of the building, which faces south, contains three entryways. The central entry features a massive tower with a concrete plaque bearing the word "Penn." The west and east entries are each capped with hipped roofs intersecting that of the main building. The entry on the west features a plaque with the words "Natural Sciences," while the entry on the east features a plaque with the words "Liberal Arts."

On the interior, the hallways are unusual because of their floor covering--which is made of a Magnesite-like material--and because of their great width. Most interior doorways are original--wooden with decorative etched glass panels on the top half. On the first floor, the central hallway contains a split staircase, with a large curved concrete bench flanking the rail. Interior wall finishes are plaster, with wood paneling now cladding some of the walls.

The structural design of Penn Hall shows a great deal of attention. The concrete construction under Penn Hall and the Women's Residence Building employed no wooden joists in their construction. Instead, the joists are all of poured concrete, in U-shaped forms that run the width of the building. Two or three courses of brick make up the bearing walls that run the full height of the building. Big perimeter tiles were implanted also to draw moisture away from the basements of these buildings. Simmons' College Avenue Meeting House also employs a similar design in the use of tile in the basement.

The basement and first floors of Penn Hall have a concrete topping, at least eight inches thick, laid over a layer of clay tile, which was placed flat. The second and third floors and all of the steps in Penn originally were concrete over clay tile also, but they were topped with a concrete and asphalt aggregate mix. This gave additional structural support to the floors, but also made them quieter. This mix was put in while hot and then rolled down smooth. It was approximately 1.5 to 2 inches thick. This flooring surface proved to be hard to maintain by modern standards. An oil-based sweeping compound was originally used to clean it, but this was subsequently determined to pose a fire hazard. At some date now undetermined, these floors were stripped down to remove all of the residual oil. Now a polymer floor finish is put on to maintain the surfaces of these floors.

Both Penn Hall and the Women's Residence Building were wired for electricity when they were constructed, and these lines are all encased in conduit.

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Penn College Historic District, Mahaska County, Iowa.

The basement connects with the underground tunnel to the Central Heating Plant, used to heat Penn Hall. The tunnels for Penn and the Women's Residence Building and the subsequent extensions for Spencer Memorial Chapel and the gymnasium were placed underground, and this has resulted in few maintenance problems over the years. When the newer campus buildings, including Watson and Eltse Halls, the Atkins Memorial Union, and Wilcox Library were constructed, the pipes to carry the live steam to heat them were buried directly in the ground, without the use of tunnels to protect them. This newer design has been much more difficult to maintain than Simmons' older concept.

An innovation of Architect Simmons' design, and less successful, involved his attempt to ventilate Penn Hall through the use of this tunnel. Penn was designed with ventilating ducts built into the interior walls, with each room containing an inward duct near the ceiling and an outward duct close to the floor. Within the interior walls, ventilating channels were built that extended from the basement to the roof. A huge eight-foot diameter squirrel cage fan operating with a twelve inch belt was designed to push air through the tunnel used to heat the building, with the current then to go through the walls, out the upper ducts in each room, cooling them in the process, out the lower duct, then to continue upward to the next floor, and eventually to the roof, where the air was expelled. Although the design was innovative and could probably have worked, it was only utilized once. On that occasion, the air current performed as expected, but it also carried coal dust from the Central Heating Plant into every room in Penn Hall. The system was never tried again. Perhaps if a way had been found to connect the fan to the tunnel on the outside, the system might have been judged operable.

Penn Hall, the Women's Residence Building, and the Central Heating Plant were all originally roofed in identical red tile. When Spencer Memorial Chapel was built a few years later, tiles of the same color, but of a different length, were used to roof it. In subsequent years it became impossible to find replacement tiles for the three oldest buildings, and the roofs of both Penn and Lewis Halls had deteriorated to the point where they needed to be replaced. Approximately in 1980 these buildings were reroofed with very heavy shingles. These soon began to crack because of their weight. In the last few years, both of these buildings have been reroofed again, this time with lighter-weight, light-red colored shingles.

A room on the third floor of Penn Hall at the east end was used originally to house the college library. This was intended to be a temporary arrangement, but it continued much longer than had been anticipated, and Architect Simmons' design had not foreseen this. Although the building is extraordinarily well constructed, it was not meant to carry such a heavy load. By 1960, the library contained 45,000 books, and the building was showing the ill-effects. "The northeast corner of the building walls was developing cracks in the masonry in evidence of the strain." (Watson, *William Penn College*, pp. 81-82). The building also settled about one-half an inch on that corner, according to Robert Pierson, former Director of Maintenance for the college, whose father also served the college in this position. As a result over concern for Penn Hall, the construction of a new library became a priority for the college. Wilcox Library opened in 1964, and the books were all transferred to the new quarters. Since then the old library rooms have been remodeled into classrooms.

The contractor for Penn Hall was Neumann & Co., of Des Moines. A strong possibility exists that this firm was also the contractor for the Central Heating Plant and the Women's Residence Building,

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Penn College Historic District, Mahaska County, Iowa.

as all three were constructed at about the same time and with the same materials. No documentation, however, has been found to substantiate this to date.

Although original doors and metal industrial style 12/8 windows were replaced in 1992, their cavities survive intact. The original steel industrial windows on the west end of this building were bricked in at some undetermined date. The original tile roof is now covered with asphalt shingles. The roof of Penn Hall originally contained an observatory with telescope. These have been removed in recent years due to lack of use and the high expense of maintaining the observatory. The telescope now rests in the center of the basement of Penn, near the base of the central staircase.

Spencer Memorial Chapel

Constructed in 1922-1923, this is a 1-story building with a lower level beneath the main floor. The footprint of this building measures approximately 57' x 115'. It rests on a brick and concrete foundation. Walls are clad with brick and the hipped roof is covered with tile. A cupola surmounts this roof. The lower level of this building is used for student recreation, including bowling alleys and roller skating area. The upper level is an auditorium with stage and pipe organ.

When approaching the campus from North Market Street, Spencer Memorial Chapel, prominently sited on a hilltop, visually dominates the approach. Constructed of rough red brick, laid in Flemish bond, contrasted with trim of Bedford stone from Indiana, the exterior matches in detail both Penn Hall and the Women's Residence Building. The red tile used on the roof, while visually the same as that used on the earlier buildings, however, consists of tiles of a different length, easier to obtain today. For that reason, this building has not yet needed reroofing. The roof is capped by a large, ornamental cupola. The pedimented portico is supported by wood columns. This pediment and a cornice, which surrounds the building, are embellished with denticulation. Windows on the facade are generally 8/8 double hung sash, while those on the sides of the building, while also possessing small panes, are arched at the top. The windows are of opaque glass. Four exterior cast concrete plaques with fruit designs grace each corner of the building, on the east and west sides.

Inside the massive front doors on the south side of the building, the main level floor is laid in small white and black mosaic tiles. The entrance hallway presently contains portraits of the college's past presidents. The entrance to the auditorium faces this front entryway. The auditorium floor slopes gradually down toward the front stage, which is placed on the north end. A balcony stretches across the rear of the auditorium. Four large ornamental chandeliers light the room. The interior of the auditorium presents a rather severe appearance, with little decorative trimming of any kind.

Funds for the building were contributed by the wife and daughters of Harry L. Spencer "as a memorial to one who believed that those who prosper in a community should contribute to its life and progress." (Watson, *William Penn College*, p. 77.) Although the Spencer family were not Quakers, they had previously given large donations to the college's various fund raising campaigns. A massive Kilgen pipe organ was later contributed by the Spencers' two daughters, and one of their sons-in-law established a trust fund to provide funds for the organ's maintenance.

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Penn College Historic District, Mahaska County, Iowa.

The cornerstone was laid in October 1921, and the chapel was dedicated in 1923. A tunnel was built to connect Spencer with the Central Heating Plant, and this heating system is still utilized today. It provides steam heat radiation, and the radiators are recessed back into the building's outer walls. The outer walls are solid brick. The main floor has solid concrete and steel reinforcements supporting it. The balcony is supported by wooden suspension rods, which go all the way to the ceiling of the attic. The attic itself has wooden joists, with 2x12 boards laid side-by-side for additional support. The tile roof is extremely heavy, requiring a very strong support system. The pillars to support it run to the peak of the roof. Below the roof, steel I beams are laid in a gridwork pattern, providing an extra measure of support for the roof.

The heating tunnel lies about four feet above the basement floor of Spencer, which is four feet below ground level. The basement contains small windows at ground level, which help to light it. The basement originally consisted of classrooms. At some point before 1940, it was redone, and the Farr Meditation Chapel and the recreation center were put in.

The fireproof building contains an auditorium that seats one thousand people. The auditorium walls have paneled wainscoting with a cream-colored enamel finish, that faded to white near the ceiling, for maximum lighting efficiency. Windows are of opaque glass. The interior ceiling of the auditorium was redone about 1950. The original ceiling was hard wall plaster, and gave the room marvelous acoustics. About 1950 it was covered over with acoustic tile, and these are now badly stained.

The total cost of the facility topped \$100,000.

A recent campaign has begun to raise funds for renovation of the building. A large farm (120 acres) formerly owned by Caroline Wilcox, has been given by George and Anne Johnson Walker, the income of which is to be used for the renovation.

In excavating for the foundation of Spencer Memorial Chapel, workmen found the remains of the old home once occupied by John White, original owner of the tract of land subsequently purchased by Penn College with money donated by Charles and Albert Johnson.

The massive Kilgen pipe organ given by the two Spencer daughters is placed behind the stage. The balcony contains a smaller pipe organ used when the Kilgen is under repair.

The integrity of this building is high. Very little alteration has taken place. Concerning condition, the wooden cornice and denticulation is deteriorated in places. The interior auditorium ceiling has been covered over with acoustic tile, which is now badly waterstained.

Gymnasium and Addition

Begun in 1955 and completed in early 1957, the footprint of this gymnasium measures approximately 110' x 112'. It is sited at the head of Penn Boulevard and forms a vista for that street when approaching the Penn College Historic District from the south. The building rests on a concrete

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Penn College Historic District, Mahaska County, Iowa.

foundation. Featuring a clear span roof covered with built-up composition, the gymnasium was constructed of red brick to match the other historic campus buildings.

The gymnasium was connected to the Central Heating Plant, whose boiler capacity was increased to handle the higher demand for hot water.

In 1969-1970, an addition was constructed to the rear of the gymnasium. This space, measuring approximately 107' x 150', was also clad on the exterior in red brick. The addition also employs a great deal of concrete on the exterior, including formed oval panels on the east elevation and a concrete cornice, which surrounds the addition.

The gymnasium and addition are intrusions in the Penn College Historic District because they postdate the period of significance for this nomination. This resource's significance should be reevaluated when it reaches 50 years of age.

Southeast Memorial Gate

Constructed circa 1920, the Southeast Memorial Gate stands on the northwest corner of the intersection of North Market Street and Trueblood Avenue. In this regard, the gate serves as an entrance to the Penn College Historic District and marks the southeastern most limits of its boundaries.

This gate is composed of two stone columns, square in plan and standing about seven feet high, which flank a pedestrian walk leading diagonally to Spencer Memorial Chapel. Like the walk, the columns are sited on a diagonal so that they face the southeast. A stone wall, about four feet in height, runs from the northern column about ten feet to the north along North Market Street.

Like its counterpart the Southwest Memorial Gate, this feature was constructed of "stone salvaged from the foundations of Spring Creek Institute, the old Yearly Meeting House, and old Main Building." (Watson, *William Penn College*, p. 78.) Because they were constructed as memorials, they are assumed to have been built soon after the members of the classes donated the funds, presumably upon or shortly after their graduations.

Southwest Memorial Gate

Constructed circa 1920, the Southwest Memorial Gate stands at the entrance to a vehicular drive situated directly east of the Gymnasium and west of the Penn College Quadrangle.

This gate is composed of a series of stone columns and walls. Two tall columns, square in plan and standing about seven feet high, flank the vehicular drive. Nearby and running at right angles to these columns two stone walls, about ten feet in length, flank each side of the approach to the drive. These walls begin and end with smaller stone columns.

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Penn College Historic District, Mahaska County, Iowa.

Like its counterpart the Southeast Memorial Gate, this feature was constructed of "stone salvaged from the foundations of Spring Creek Institute, the old Yearly Meeting House, and old Main Building." (*Ibid.*, p. 78.) Because they were constructed as memorials, they are assumed to have been built soon after the members of the classes donated the funds, presumably upon or shortly after their graduations.

Women's Residence Building

Constructed in 1916-1917, the Women's Residence Building is a large, 2-1/2 story, el-shaped edifice. The footprint of the south portion of this building measures approximately 122' x 61'. It contains the main entrance to the building. The northern portion measures approximately 162' x 68'. These two portions are connected by an exterior hallway on the west elevation. Altogether, the complex contains four "cottages," each separate residential units for women and each named for historic Quaker women: Margaret Fell Cottage, Elizabeth Fry Cottage, Mary Dyer Cottage, and Sybil Jones Cottage.

This building is now named Lewis Hall in honor of a long-serving member of the Penn College faculty and administration, Rosa E. Lewis.

The building rests on a brick and concrete foundation. The structural system of this building is masonry load bearing walls. Exterior walls are clad with brick and Bedford stone. The low-pitched roof systems contain two intersecting hip-on-gable roofs with hipped dormer windows. Although the roof was originally covered with tile, it is now covered with asphalt shingles.

The Women's Residence Building is made up of four units, called "cottages." Architect A. T. Simmons' original drawings and plans called for two additional cottages on the north end, paralleling those on the south. These last two were never implemented. Had the original plan been followed, the building would form a large U shape. As it now is, the building is el-shaped. The building was planned for the old-campus site, and the original drawing, which now hangs in Wilcox Library, shows it in yellow brick with a red tile roof, to match the College Avenue Meeting House, which Simmons had earlier designed. Penn Hall was also designed in this way.

As constructed, the Women's Residence Building, Penn Hall, and the Central Heating Plant are all built of rough, dark red brick, with Bedford stone trim, and they all originally had red tile roofs, possibly made at Sheffield, Iowa, near Mason City. In the years since, both Lewis and Penn have been reroofed twice. About 1980 the tile roofs of Lewis and Penn were removed because replacement tiles could no longer be found, and a heavy shingle was used for the replacement roof. These shingles cracked very easily because of their weight. These buildings have been reroofed again in the last few years, this time with a lighter-weight red shingle.

During construction, temporary tracks were laid in front of Lewis Hall to bring in building supplies by train. The spur that connected these tracks to the main line of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad tracks remained in place until well into the 1940s. It was used to carry coal to the Central Heating Plant.

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On the interior, the formal parlor in the southwest corner of the building has original plaster cast ceilings and wall ornamentation in excellent condition. The informal parlor in the southeast corner, originally the college dining room, has some plaster castings on the ceiling as well. The walls in this room consist of yellow brick on the lower portions with plaster above. All interior floors are made of concrete to minimize the possibility of fire damage. The exterior covered hallway connecting the four cottages appears to be unique and is functional as well as decorative. It is the only way one can pass from one cottage to another.

The upper floor of the two cottages on the south, and all three floors of the two cottages to the north consist of living areas for women students. (See attached plan.) Each floor contains a central stairway, with one living area on each side. The living areas contain central parlors, each with a central brick fireplace, with a bathroom and bedrooms radiating off from it. In addition to providing small, comfortable, more-homelike units for the students, this arrangement also maximizes the window space and provides each room with a good view, particularly on the upper-most floors. Originally each student had a bedroom of her own, although within a short time most of the rooms became doubles.

At the time of planning, the possibility of fire again destroying a college building was uppermost in the minds of those responsible for the design of the new buildings. As a consequence, both Lewis and Penn Halls are as fireproof as buildings could be built at the time. Within Lewis, each cottage is separated from the others by brick firewalls that extend the entire height of the buildings. All of the interior walls are made of gypsum, and no wooden studs were used. A few attic rafters are made of wood, the only wood used in the construction of the building. All of the floors are concrete, to minimize the potential of fire. Only one fire is known to have occurred in the history of the building, breaking out in a room on the third floor of one of the cottages, but because of the building's design, it did not spread, and the damage was limited to only two rooms.

No wooden joists were used in the construction of this building's flooring. Instead, all floor joists are of poured concrete, in U-shaped forms that run the width of each building. Two or three courses of brick make up the bearing walls that run the full height of the building. Big perimeter tiles were implanted also to draw moisture away from the basements of these buildings. Simmons' College Avenue Meeting House also employs a similar design in the use of tile in the basement.

The building contains an unusual exterior, covered walkway design. This walkway connects all four cottages on the first floor. The basements are separated, and most contain laundry and storage facilities. The building is heated by the Central Heating Plant to this day. It is connected by an underground tunnel, laid in place at the time of construction, which has needed little if any repair in the years since.

A large cast concrete plaque is located above the central exterior entrance in the middle of the south elevation. It contains the motto, "The measure of a People is its estimate of Woman." Each of the cottages also bears a cast concrete plaque bearing the name of the historic Quaker woman for whom it is named. Margaret Fell Cottage is located on the southwest, Elizabeth Fry Cottage is on the

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southeast, Mary Dyer Cottage lies immediately to the north of it, and Sybil Jones Cottage is located on the north.

A strong possibility exists that Neumann & Co., building contractors of Des Moines, constructed the Women's Residence Building. This firm built Penn Hall, which was erected at about the same time and with the same building materials. No documentation, however, has been found to substantiate this to date.

In the early 1950s, the interior of Lewis Hall was repainted. All of the original windows in Lewis Hall were replaced in 1990-1991. Most of the current windows have three vertical panes of glass.

Central Heating Plant

Constructed in 1916-1917, this is a 2-story, brick building, which measures approximately 55' x 82'. The building rests on a concrete foundation. Exterior walls feature stone trimwork. The hipped roof is covered with tile. Each floor of the building contains approximately 4,750 square feet. The building retains its original industrial style windows. The large windows feature seven tiers with five panes of glass in each tier. The small windows feature three tiers with five panes of glass in each tier.

This plant was designed to provide steam heat and electric light to Penn Hall and the Women's Residence Building. A tunnel connected the heating plant to these other halls. When Spencer Memorial Chapel was built a few years later, a tunnel was built so that the plant could service it, as well. The gymnasium and addition were both connected to the Central Heating Plant, and the boiler capacity was increased significantly when the gym was put on the system. All of the later campus buildings except the McGrew Fine Arts Center were also heated by this plant through the use of above-ground pipes, which transported steam to the buildings where individual converters were placed to make the steam usable. These later buildings have subsequently been disconnected and individual heaters have been installed in them. Today, only Penn and Lewis Halls, Spencer Memorial Chapel, and the gymnasium and addition are still heated by the Central Heating Plant.

This plant was constructed of the same rough, dark red brick, with Bedford stone trim, as Penn and Lewis Halls. It also had the same red tile roof as those buildings, and today it is the only one of the three that retains its original roof. It is sited 90 feet west and slightly north of Penn Hall.

The smokestack was originally 146 feet high. This great height was necessary to create the tremendous draft required to pull air through the original three boilers, which had no blowers. Simmons carefully designed this smokestack so it would appear sleek. Although the smokestack gradually tapers, there are no steps on the outside, as courses of brick were removed at intervals on the inner part of the stack. At the bottom, the walls of the smokestack are 4 or 5 courses of brick thick.

About 1934, the smokestack was struck by lightning, and some of the bricks and part of the original Bedford stone coping around the rim came down. The decision was made to take off twenty feet, bringing it down to 126 feet, and another stone coping was then put on the top. In subsequent years, the

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smokestack was inspected repeatedly, and it became apparent that further cracks had developed. In the intervening years, power burners had been put on all the boilers, so the great height was no longer necessary. The smokestack was then taken down to 65 feet, its present height, and bands were put on it to stabilize the brick.

The second floor of the Central Heating Plant contains an apartment. For many years, Building and Grounds Superintendent Lewis Pierson and his family resided here. It consists of two bedrooms, a living room, a dining room, a small kitchen, and a small office.

An innovation of Architect Simmons' design that was less successful involved his attempt to ventilate Penn Hall through the use of the Central Heating Plant. Penn was designed with ventilating ducts built into the interior walls, with each room containing an inward duct near the ceiling and an outward duct close to the floor. Within the interior walls, ventilating channels were built that extended from the basement to the roof. A huge eight-foot diameter squirrel cage fan operating with a twelve inch belt was designed to push air through the tunnel used to heat the building, with the air current circulated through the walls, out the upper ducts in each room, cooling them in the process, out the lower duct, then to continue upward to the next floor, and eventually to the roof, where the air was expelled. Although the design was innovative and could probably have worked, it was only utilized once. On that occasion, the air current performed as expected, but it also carried coal dust from the Central Heating Plant into every room in Penn Hall. The system was never tried again. Perhaps if a way had been found to connect the fan to the tunnel on the outside, the system might have been judged operable.

A strong possibility exists that Neumann & Co., building contractors of Des Moines, constructed the Central Heating Plant. This firm built Penn Hall, which was erected at about the same time and with the same building materials. No documentation, however, has been found to substantiate this to date.

The integrity of this building is the highest of the A. T. Simmons' designed buildings on the William Penn College campus. The smokestack has been reduced from 146' to 65' and its top rim has been changed.

Industrial Arts Building #1

Constructed in 1962, this 1-story, brick, hipped-roof building lies directly west of the Central Heating Plant. Its footprint measures 40' x 97'. Its roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Industrial Arts Building # 2, which was constructed in 1964, lies west of this building, outside the boundaries of the Penn College Historic District. At the rear of Building #1, to the south, two of the five original Temporary G.I. Units have been attached. These are the only extant units of the five, and they consist of a prefabricated, metal Quonset-hut type of construction.

This building originally contained the college print shop, which has since been dismantled. It currently houses the mechanical drawing workshops and the automobile mechanics' workshops.

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The Industrial Arts Building #1 is an intrusion in the Penn College Historic District because its construction postdates the period of significance for this nomination. The building's significance should be reevaluated when its reaches 50 years of age.

Tennis Courts

A series of hard-surfaced tennis courts are situated to the north of the Women's Residence Building and to the east of Atkins Memorial Union. This area is located in a swale so the courts are not readily visible. These courts are enclosed with wire fencing. They were constructed following World War II.

Although these facilities are intrusions to the Penn College Historic District, they are visually neutral and do not negatively impact the visual integrity of the area.

EXCLUDED RESOURCES

The Penn College Historic District is abutted by a number of other land use areas associated with William Penn College and forming part of that institution's present-day campus. Each of these other areas has been excluded from the boundaries of the historic district because construction of buildings in them postdates the period of significance for the National Register.

Each of these land use areas have been given a nonhistoric name in this nomination, according to their site relationship with the institution's historic campus. These names--South Campus, East Campus, North Campus, and West Campus--are not necessarily used by William Penn College personnel, but they help clarify the evolution of the campus for the purposes of this nomination.

South Campus

South Campus is situated between North Market Street on the east, Penn Boulevard on the west, Trueblood Avenue on the north. One building is located in this area. Constructed in 1964, Wilcox Library stands directly south of Trueblood Avenue and faces north.

East Campus

East Campus is situated between North Market Street on the west, Sheriff Avenue on the north, Lacy Drive on the east, and the extension of Trueblood Avenue on the south (if that street were actually platted in the area). East Campus contains Griffith Hall, used for music and fine arts, McGrew Fine Arts Center, and Eltse Hall, a men's dormitory.

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North Campus

North Campus is situated between North Market Street on the east, the Penn College Historic District on the south, West Campus on the west, and the property line of William Penn College on the north. North Campus contains Watson Hall, originally a men's dormitory but now co-education, and Atkins Memorial Union, the student center.

West Campus

West Campus is situated between the Penn College Historic District on the east, Trueblood Avenue on the south, North E Street on the west, and the property line of William Penn College on the north. West Campus contains the Industrial Technology Building, the New Industrial Technology and Maintenance Building, and athletic fields.

Griffith Hall, located on the East Campus and presently used for fine arts, is an exception. This building is itself an historic building and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as the E. H. Gibbs House. Originally built as a private, single-family dwelling, it only became a part of William Penn College in 1945. In this sense, the building is not associated with the institution's historic period of significance.

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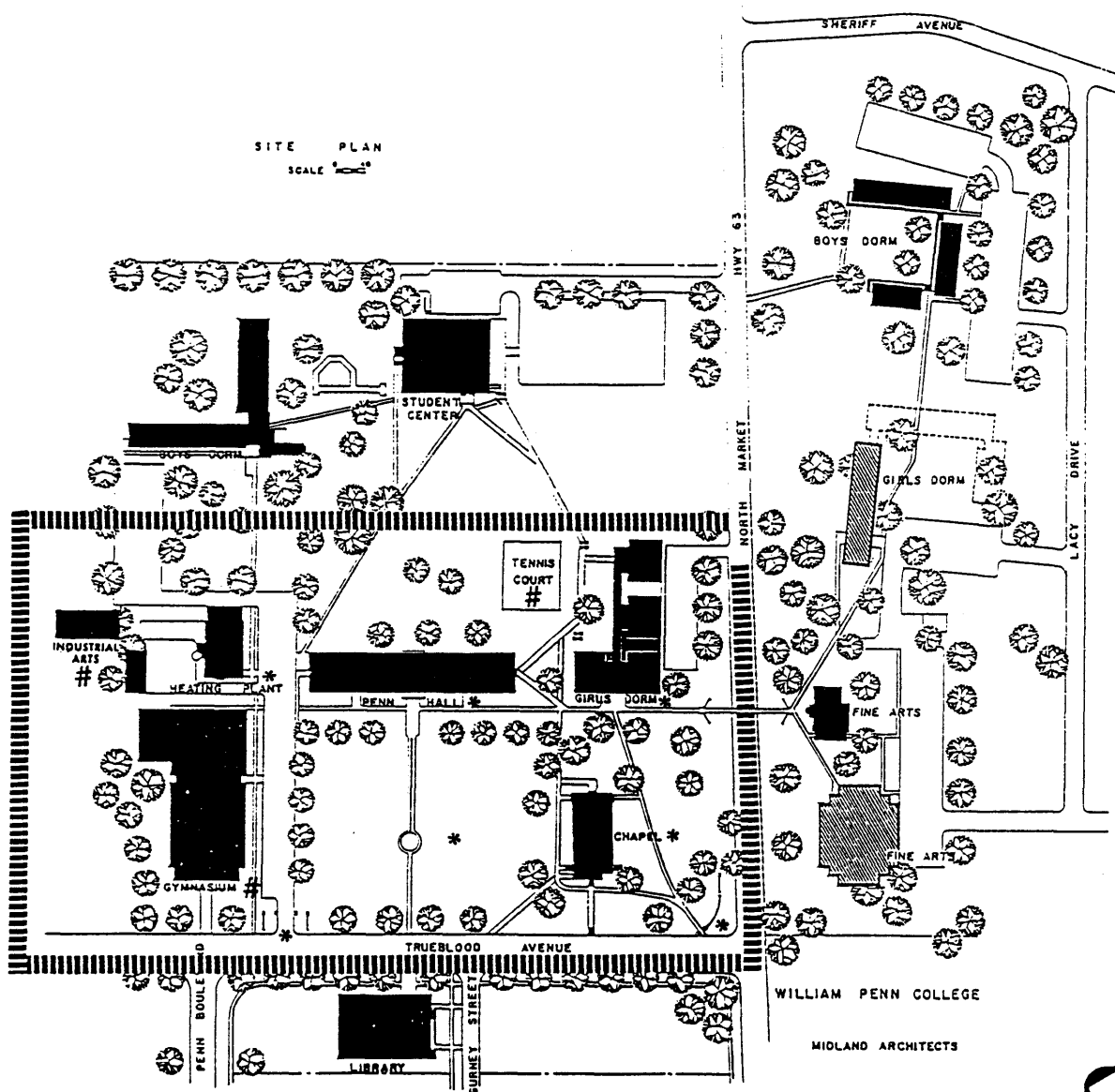
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PENN COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARIES



Asterisk (*) denotes contributing resource. Pound sign (#) denotes noncontributing resource.

Source: Midland Architects' Site Plan, Burlington, Iowa.

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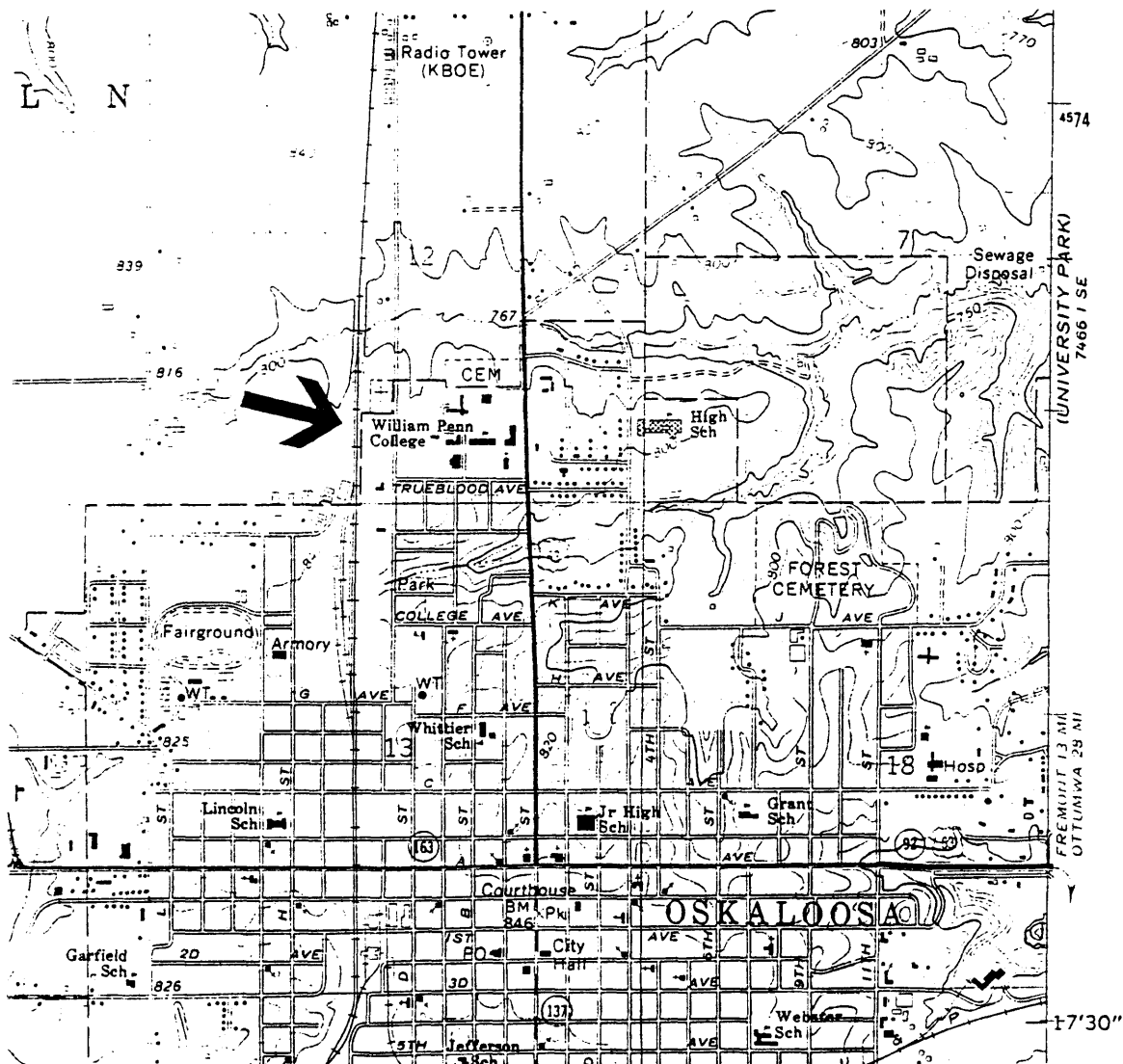
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SITE MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



Source: U.S.G.S. Map (7.5 Series), Oskaloosa Quadrangle, 1968.

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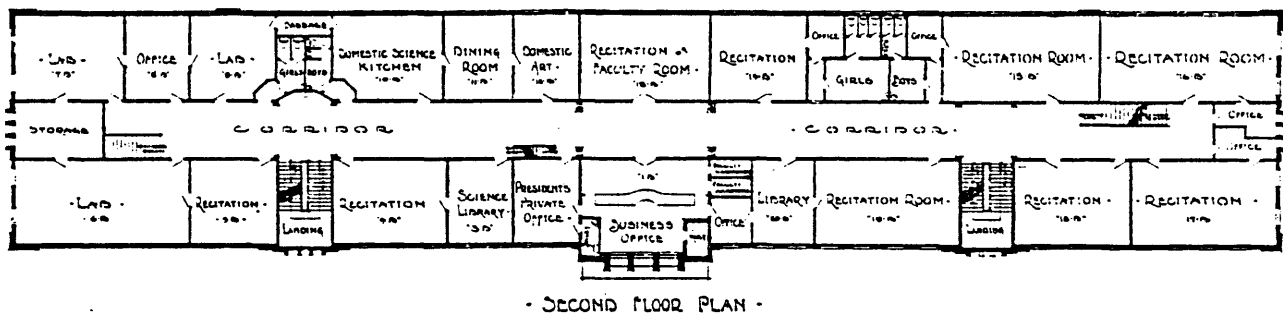
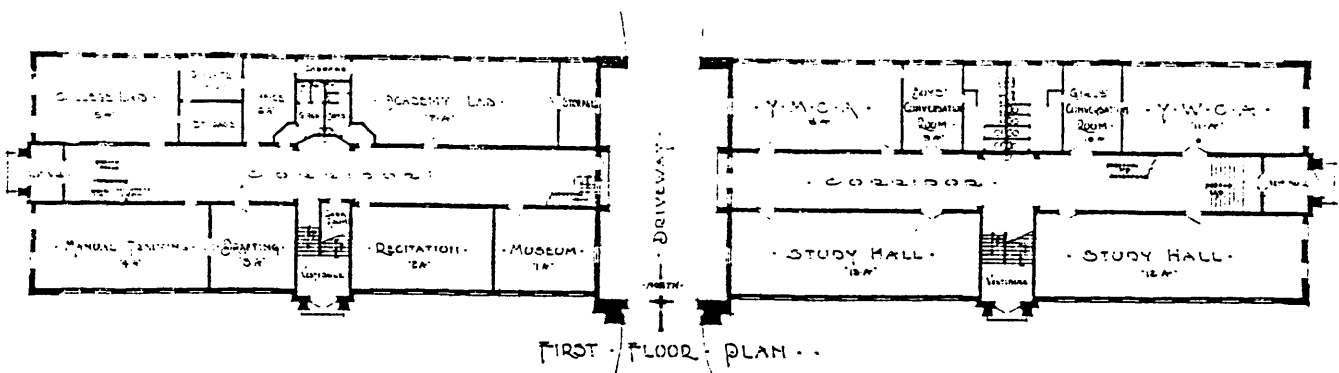
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FIRST AND SECOND FLOOR PLANS PENN HALL



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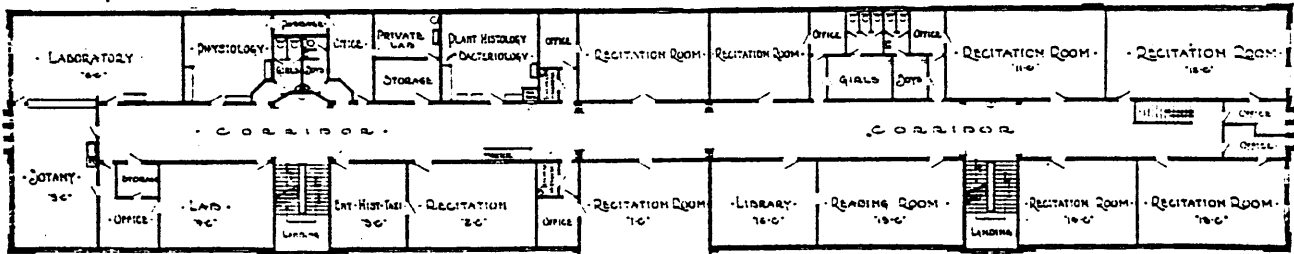
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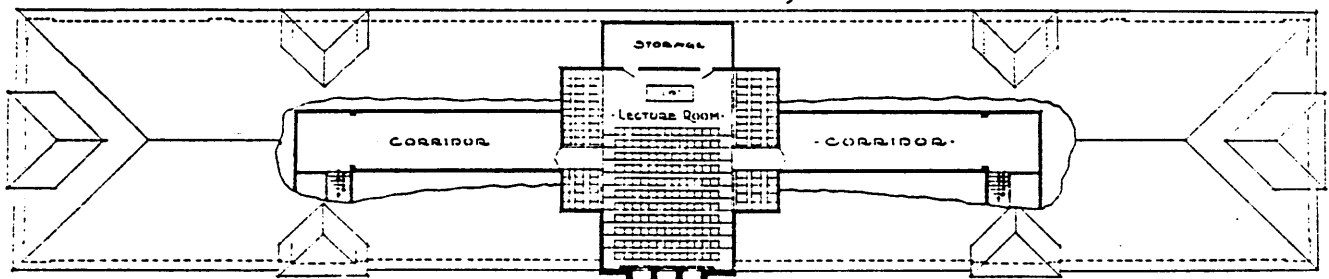
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THIRD AND FOURTH FLOOR PLANS PENN HALL



... THIRD FLOOR PLAN ...



... FOURTH FLOOR & ROOF PLAN ...

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REPRESENTATIVE FLOOR PLAN WOMEN'S RESIDENCE BUILDING

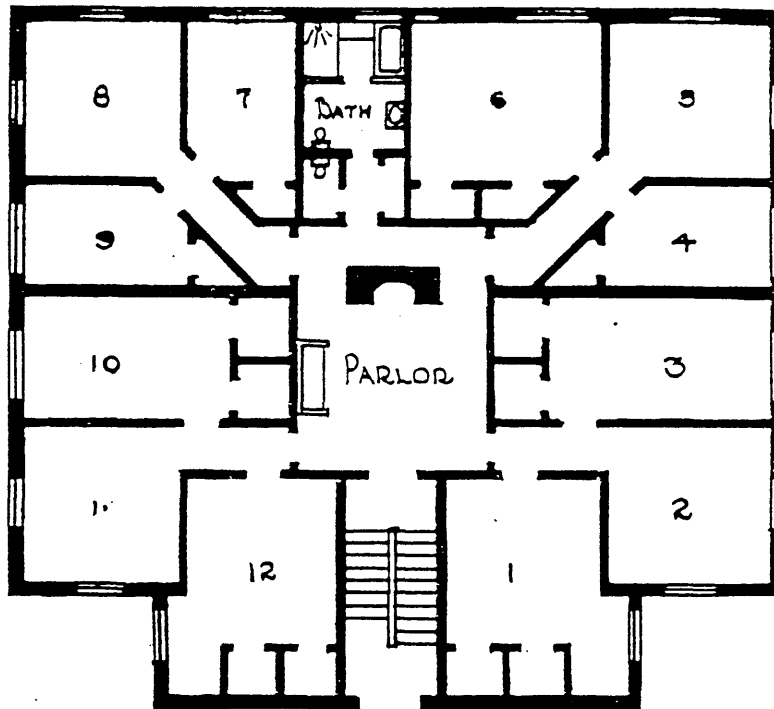


FIG. II.

First and second floors of Mary Dyer and Sybil Jones Cottages
(Units C and D), and second floor of Margaret Fell Cottage (Unit A).

Rooms to be selected by number.

Rooms 2, 5, 8 and 11 are not to be selected as they are the study
rooms of their respective suites.

Rooms 7, 9 and 4 accommodate one girl each.

Rooms 6, 10, 12, 1 and 3 accommodate two girls each.

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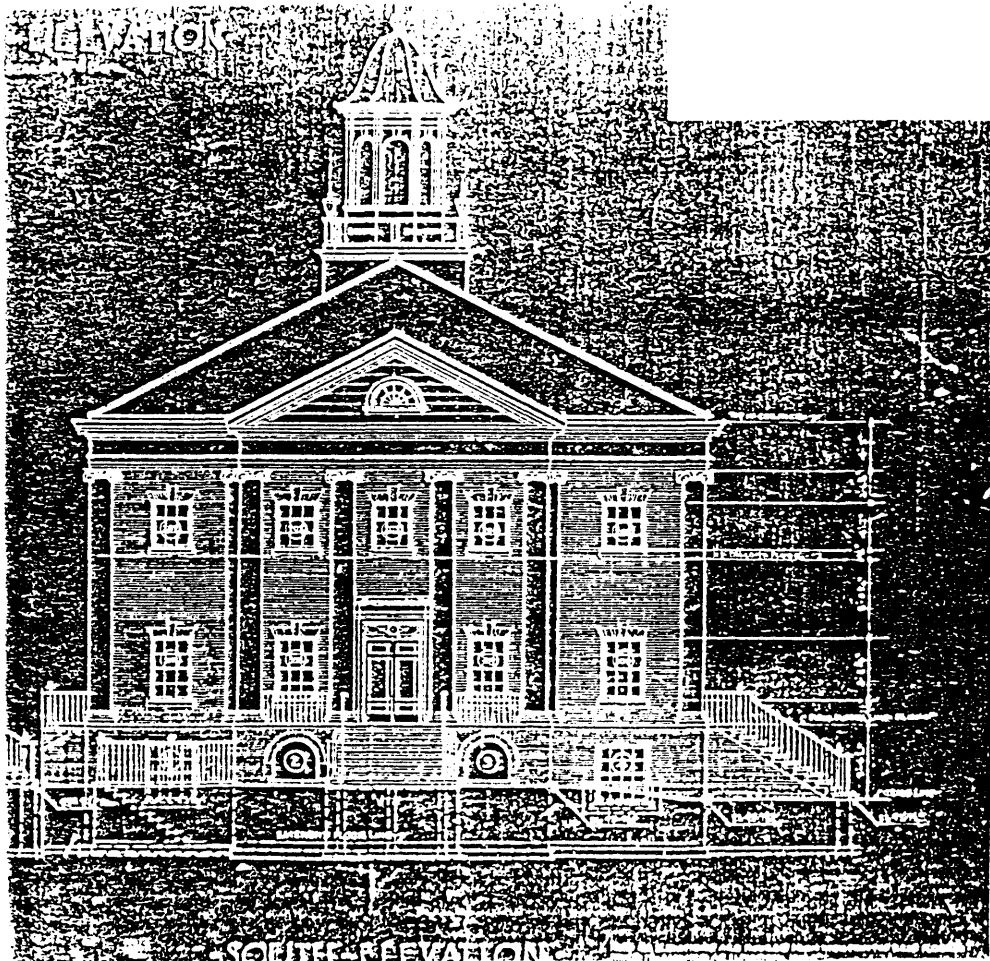
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SOUTH ELEVATION SPENCER MEMORIAL CHAPEL



PREPARED BY PROUDFOOT, BIRD & RAWSON

Source: William Penn College Archives.

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SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located in Oskaloosa, Iowa, and constructed between 1916 and 1923, the Penn College Historic District is significant statewide and under National Register Criteria A because it calls attention to events and patterns associated with Quakers within the historic context "The Quaker Testimony in Oskaloosa, Iowa."

Penn College Historic District is significant, under National Register Criterion C, because it calls attention to an architectural concept plan for an entire collegiate campus, as well as construction plans for individual buildings within this campus, all designed by the same architect, A. T. Simmons of Bloomington, Illinois, and most of which were actually implemented.

The campus is additionally significant architecturally because it provides a fine example of the Prairie School of architecture and how its influence grew beyond Illinois. Never exerting wide-spread influence over collegiate and university design in America, the Prairie School failed to exert a continuing influence, such as that of Collegiate Gothic. As a result, college and university architecture influenced by the Prairie School are unusual.

The period of significance for the Penn College Historic District, under Criterion A, embraces the years from 1916 to 1945. The earlier date reflects the time of its construction. The later date reflects the National Register 50-year cut-off date. In point of fact, the historical significance for this historic district continues to the present for Quakers. Significant dates within this period include 1917-1918, when World War I tested the Quakers' "Peace Testimony" and 1941-1945 when World War II again exacted such tests, both periods eliciting negative responses from the local community. The year 1933 is also a significant date because the college reincorporated in that year to avert financial disaster, changing its name from Penn College to William Penn College.

The Penn College Historic District is significant statewide. This is warranted because the Quakers, who founded the institution, settled throughout the eastern third of Iowa and looked to Oskaloosa as the site of their Iowa Yearly Meeting and their most important institution of higher learning.

In addition to the historic contexts provided in the "Quaker Testimony in Oskaloosa, Iowa" Multiple Property Documentation Form, the following statements of significance specifically discuss individual resources within the Penn College Historic District and how they relate to these contexts.

SITE

The site of the new Penn College campus is significant because it shows how natural features were manipulated and buildings sited to create an imposing collegiate quadrangle.

The strongest topographical influence was the site's hilly character. Cresting about 600 feet north of today's Trueblood Avenue, the land forms a ridge, which runs east and west across the site. The land then slopes gradually to the south and steeply into a swale on the north. This ridge was chosen for the

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location of Penn Hall, the Central Heating Plant, and the Women's Residence Building, each situated along its spine. These buildings, coupled somewhat later with Spencer Memorial Chapel and finally by the Gymnasium and Addition, defined a large space which became the Lawn of the Penn College Quadrangle.

This site is additionally significant because it employs an ancient architectural conceit--the collegiate quadrangle--using an early Twentieth Century design influence--the Prairie School of architecture. The site also calls attention to architect A. T. Simmons, who prepared the concept plan for it. Although little information is available about design of an important element of this quadrangle--the Lawn--the name of landscape architect Floyd Wyrick (or Ray F. Weirick) and a concept plan have been identified (see cover document Section E Page 107).

PENN HALL

Penn Hall was designed by A. T. Simmons as a replacement for Main Building, which was destroyed by fire in May 1916. As a direct response to the fire, Penn Hall was designed to be as fireproof as possible. In this, Architect Simmons succeeded admirably. The only wood used in the construction of the building are a few rafters in the attic. Structural steel provides the interior support, and the exterior walls are rough-faced, deep-red brick, with Bedford stone from Indiana used as trim. The materials used on the exterior match those on the Women's Residence Building and the Central Heating Plant.

Penn Hall is significant for its architectural design because it calls attention to the work of A. T. Simmons and the influence of the Prairie School of architecture within his work. The building is additionally significant because it stands as a key element within the concept of the Penn College Quadrangle as designed by Simmons.

Constructed in 1916-1917, Penn Hall is the largest building in the Penn College Historic District. Its central location between the Women's Residence Building and the Central Heating Plant forms the primary northern element of the Penn College Quadrangle. The building's strong horizontal design dominates the campus, while the building's massive central tower acts as a focus for the entire quadrangle.

Stylistically, the building is influenced by the Prairie School of architecture. Notable features include the strong horizontal feeling of the building and the stone trimwork emphasizing it, and the low pitched roof. This influence is particularly pronounced in the central tower and the two secondary entrances that flank it. Protruding from the facades, these elements feature windows set between brick columns, surmounted by stone capitals, horizontal trimwork, and name plaques. Dormer windows are situated atop the secondary entrances, while a large parapet capped with stone copping stands atop the central one. The use of industrial style, metal windows is an influence of the Commercial style of architecture.

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The central tower of Penn Hall is particularly significant. It calls attention to Simmons' fascination with projecting entrances and the use of high parapets to accent them. As with the Emmetsburg Public Library in Emmetsburg, Iowa, such a pediment dominates Penn Hall. It conveys a tower-like effect to the composition, which is further emphasized by the insertion of a plaque reading "Penn."

The dark red brick used on Penn Hall is accented by the use of stone trimwork. In this regard, the central entryway is particularly notable. The first floor is built entirely of stone, flanked by stone bulwarks. These elements are accented by stone posts, whose design is influenced by Japanese taste.

Penn Hall is significant historically because it illustrates the importance of education to the Quakers and the historical linkages among the Quaker colleges. It is also significant for the attention it calls to the continuing financial pressures on Penn College and to the college's reliance on support from members of the Oskaloosa community.

Constructed in 1916-1917, Penn Hall was designed to house most of the departments of the college. The west wing held the Natural Sciences, the east wing the Arts and Humanities, and the central portion the administration. At the time it was built, the Society of Friends had already begun to experience a decline in membership. In short order, three other yearly meetings were set off from the Iowa Yearly Meeting. Although Penn drew many non-Quakers as students, members of the Society still made up the majority, and they also provided the bulk of the college's funds. After the 1916 fire, the college needed large numbers of non-Quakers for the first time to contribute to the fund raising campaign to rebuild. The significance for the college in the decline of membership among the Friends would be felt for many years. Although Penn Hall and the Central Heating Plant were completed as designed, the design of the Women's Residence Hall remains only partially implemented, and work on the gymnasium was halted soon after the basement was excavated. The costs for these projects proved to be too high for the college's resources at that time.

This building also obtains significance because it calls attention to the historic importance of education to Friends and to the connections among the Quaker colleges. Penn Academy, one division of Penn, now no longer extant, held classes in Main Building, and then in Penn Hall. Together with the college, the academy emphasizes the importance of a relatively high level of education to Quakers at a time when public schools were rudimentary at best. Penn was also the first college established by the sect west of the Mississippi River, and it continues to receive support from Friends located all across the Midwest and West. Many interrelationships exist between Penn and its fellow Quaker schools, but some of the more important include frequent exchanges of faculty and administrators, and training of these personnel. Traditionally Penn presidents and faculty came from other Quakers institutions, and, if they chose to, also moved on to other Friends' colleges.

Penn Hall is significant, furthermore, because it calls attention to the frequent and continuing financial problems suffered by Penn College. Penn Hall was constructed with the help of funds from the citizens of Oskaloosa, as a plaque on the side of the building proclaims.

Although the building was not designed to house the college library, it did so from the time of its construction until Wilcox Library opened in 1964. This created strains on the building, visible in

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cracks on the exterior walls and settling of the building. Because the college experienced severe financial difficulties during the Great Depression, however, there was no money available to construct a library and relieve the strain on Penn Hall.

Simmons' original rendering of the design for the building, which now hangs in Wilcox Library, shows it constructed of yellow brick, with a red tile roof, to match the exterior of the College Avenue Meeting House, which he had earlier designed. The buildings were planned to compliment one another, as was the Women's Residence Hall, designed about the same time as Penn Hall. Subsequently the college's Board of Trustees voted to rebuild on a different site, several blocks north of College Avenue, and it no longer seemed important that the buildings resemble each other. Penn Hall and the Women's Residence Building, as constructed, were built of deep red, rough-faced brick, with red tile roofs. This drawing also shows a drive coming up from the southwest and forking near the corner of the building, with one branch continuing on past the west side of the building and the other going along the front, south side of the building. This road was apparently never implemented.

SPENCER MEMORIAL CHAPEL

This building was designed by Proudfoot, Bird and Rawson, architects of Des Moines. It was considered a "home enterprise" of Mahaska County, in contrast to the earlier Simmons' designed buildings, because its building contractor, P. W. Sparks, was from Oskaloosa, and the laborers and building supplies mostly came from Mahaska County.

Spencer Memorial Chapel is architecturally significant because it calls attention to the work of Proudfoot, Bird and Rawson, architects of Des Moines. The building is also significant as one of the finest examples of Colonial Revival architecture in Oskaloosa. The building is also significant because it stands as an important element within the concept of the Penn College Quadrangle as designed by A. T. Simmons.

Completed in 1923, Spencer Memorial Chapel provides a hard edge to the eastern perimeter of the Penn College Quadrangle. Although this building was constructed some five years after most other elements of the quadrangle, the chapel was sited to conform with Simmons' 1916 concept plan. As such, this resource calls attention to the persistence of Penn administrators conforming to Simmons' plan.

Stylistically, the building calls attention to the Colonial Revival taste in Oskaloosa. Notable features include the prominent facade portico supported by wood columns, the wide cornice with dentils, which surrounds the building, the wooden pilasters, which stand on the facade, the variously configured windows, which feature opaque glass, and the cupola, which sits atop the building. As such, this building reflects the growing tendency within the Colonial Revival movement to emulate more closely the Eighteenth Century prototypes, which inspired this style. Spencer Memorial Chapel can be contrasted, in this respect, with the Iowa Yearly Meeting House-College Avenue Friends Church, which calls attention to an earlier phase of the movement.

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Spencer Memorial Chapel is additionally significant because it calls attention to the firm of Proudfoot, Bird, and Rawson. As official architects for the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and the University of Northern Iowa, this firm enjoyed a premier reputation with the State of Iowa. According to Eckhardt ("Proudfoot and Bird"), this firm was working during this period under the influence of Colonial Revival. Spencer Memorial Chapel calls attention to this movement.

Finally, this building is architecturally significant because its use of red brick relates to similar materials also employed in Penn Hall, the Women's Residence Building, and the Central Heating Plant. This use of materials further unifies the architectural composition of the Penn College quadrangle.

Spencer Memorial Chapel obtains significance under Criterion A for several reasons. First, its design calls attention to the schism of 1877 among Iowa Friends. Second, it highlights the Quakers' relationship with the City of Oskaloosa. Finally, it illustrates the unwillingness of Quakers to give financial gifts large enough to maintain and improve their large institutions.

The design of Spencer Memorial Chapel resembles that of the Iowa Yearly Meeting House-College Avenue Friends Church and may have been intended as a complement to that earlier building. Both employ Colonial Revival style, with imposing entranceways flanked by tall columns. The prominent siting of Spencer Memorial Chapel on North Market Street visually dominates the campus as one approaches from the south. In the design of this building, the Friends again called on a non-Quaker to design a non-traditional meeting house for the use of the college. As with the earlier building on College Avenue, Spencer Memorial Chapel thus highlights the schism of 1877 and its turn from simplicity of style favored by early Quakers. The Iowa Yearly Meeting and the Board of Trustees of Penn College both adopted designs that emphasize their turn toward evangelism and outreach toward the community. The prominent siting of Spencer Memorial Chapel also calls attention to its central importance to Quakers as the campus religious center.

Spencer Memorial Chapel obtains further historical significance because it calls attention to the relationship between Penn College and the City of Oskaloosa. Neither Harry L. nor Mary E. Spencer were Quakers, and yet they gave substantial gifts to the college, with the funds for the construction of Spencer Memorial Chapel being the largest and the most prominent. These funds were given as evidence of the family's belief that people should contribute to the growth and improvement of their own community and its institutions. Over the years, Penn College has received many large gifts from non-Quakers of Oskaloosa and Mahaska County, and neither Main Building nor Penn Hall could have been completed without such contributions. Spencer Memorial Chapel, however, remains the only Penn building constructed almost solely from funds contributed by one family. It illustrates a level of cooperation and appreciation between the town and gown.

Finally, Spencer Memorial Chapel is historically significant because it calls attention to the problem large Quaker institutions have had over the years in terms of fund raising. Their traditional base of support has been members of the Society of Friends, who have been unwilling to make sustained, long-term pledges of financial support sufficient to maintain and improve their facilities. Although Friends are known for their generally high level of business acumen and success, their colleges have

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all faced numerous financial crises over the years. Penn, for instance, receives funds from the Iowa Yearly Meeting, but these have never been sufficient in themselves to maintain the college. Penn administrators therefore have had to conduct numerous fund raising campaigns over the years, appealing to non-Quaker members of the local community, whose generosity has helped several campaigns to end successfully. Harry L. and Mary E. Spencer illustrate this tendency, for they gave the largest pledge received in the fund raising campaign for rebuilding after the 1916 fire. Spencer Memorial Chapel, because of its close association with the Spencer family, thus obtains additional significance as an example of the large role individual benefactors have played in the continuing search for non-Quaker bases of financial support.

SOUTHEAST AND SOUTHWEST MEMORIAL GATES

Both Memorial Gates comprise low stone columns, surmounted by caps, constructed in association with lower set walls.

The Southwest Memorial Gate was given by the class of 1919 in honor of classmates lost in World War I. It continues today to provide the main vehicular access route to the campus, with the gate flanking both sides of the road. It is located slightly southeast of the gymnasium, on the north side of Trueblood Avenue. As one element of the landscape architecture of the Penn College Quadrangle, this gate calls attention to the growing importance of the automobile in American life and the recognition of this fact on the local level.

The Southeast Memorial Gate was provided by members of the classes of 1918 and 1920. Constructed as an amenity to the Penn College Quadrangle, it demarks the entrance to a pedestrian walk to the campus from North Market Avenue.

These resources are architecturally significant because they help define the boundaries of the Penn College Quadrangle. They stand at major entrances to the new-site campus and relate to vehicular driveways as designed by A. T. Simmons in his concept plan of 1916.

The Southwest Memorial Gate and the Southeast Memorial Gate are also historically significant because they call attention to the ambivalence Quakers faced during World War I. The "Peace Testimony" remained one of the central tenets of belief of the Iowa Yearly Meeting, and many Penn students chose to resist military service and perform alternative service instead. Many of these students paid a high personal price for this decision, spending years in federal prisons. Other students, however, did fight in the war, and some of these were killed. Following the close of the war, a national effort was made to commemorate and pay tribute to those lost in the country's service. As a commemorative gesture at Penn, these gateways fit into this tradition, serving as a memorial to Penn students lost in World War I. At the same time, their presence on the campus highlights this sense of ambivalence. There is no memorial to those among mainline Americans who chose to express their own "Peace Testimony."

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Constructed of stone from earlier buildings associated with the Friends, the Spring Creek Institute, the first Iowa Yearly Meeting House, and Main Building (including its cornerstone), the gates also serve as a tribute to Penn College's history and heritage. They thus provide two linkages for the present with the past.

WOMEN'S RESIDENCE BUILDING

The Women's Residence Building is significant for its architectural design because it calls attention to the work of A. T. Simmons and the influence of the Prairie School of architecture within his work. The building is additionally significant because it stands as an important element within the collegiate quadrangle concept as designed by Simmons.

Constructed in 1916-1917, the Women's Residence Building forms the northeast anchor of the Penn College quadrangle. Stylistically, the building is influenced by the Prairie School of architecture. Notable features include the strong horizontal feeling of the building, the stone trimwork emphasizing it, and the low pitched roof. The interior of the building features several rooms with oak wainscoting and plaster cornices with plant material motifs and etched glass panes on the doorways.

This building is historically significant because it calls attention to a central tenet of the Quaker faith, the equality of women. Although the Iowa Yearly Meeting later diverged from some traditional beliefs of Friends, this meeting has continued to strive toward the goal of equality for women. Penn College was a coeducational institution from its founding, the first graduate was a female, and the first faculty contained two women. It is very significant that when the college faced the enormous task of rebuilding after the 1916 fire, one of the four buildings planned at the time was a dormitory for the women students. The cottage or unit plan employed by Architect Simmons in the building's design emphasizes the perceived need for a home-like atmosphere for the women. (See representative floor plan in Section 7 Page 19.)

Originally called the Women's Residence Building, this dormitory was later renamed Lewis Hall for the longest-serving Penn College faculty member, Rosa E. Lewis, who was a professor of English Literature for 45 years, and at times Librarian and Dean of Women. Lewis had also lived in the building for some years during the 1930s. In renaming the building for her, Penn also recognized the significance of her many years of service to the college.

CENTRAL HEATING PLANT

The Central Heating Plant is significant for its architectural design because it calls attention to the work of A. T. Simmons and the influence of the Prairie School of architecture within his work. The building is additionally significant because it forms an important element within the Penn College Quadrangle concept as designed by Simmons.

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Simmons' concept plan for the new-site campus, combined with his master plans for individual buildings on the new-site, constitute a unified architectural composition. The idea of a collegiate quadrangle forms the basis of the concept plan and gives the shape to the campus. The siting of individual buildings implements this concept. In addition to their location, many of the buildings reinforce the unified feeling because they employ the same building materials--red brick, stone trim, and, originally, industrial style windows and tile roofs. Most buildings also exhibit in common an eclectic architectural design, influenced by Prairie School.

Constructed in 1917, this plant forms the northwest anchor of the Penn College quadrangle. Stylistically, the building is influenced by the Prairie School of architecture. Notable features include the extensive use of ribbon windows punctuated by brick pilasters, the low pitched roof, and the use of stone trimwork in geometric designs. The building's industrial style metal windows, which remain in place, add an eclectic note to the building, suggesting the influence of the Commercial style of architecture.

The Central Heating Plant holds force of historical significance because it illustrates the Quaker concern for business-like operations and practical applications. Architect A. T. Simmons designed a very useful and practical method for heating and lighting all of the other buildings he planned for the campus in only one facility. The design obtains further significance, because it proved to be adaptable over the years. A new, fourth boiler was not even needed until the gymnasium was erected in 1955-1957. As additional campus buildings were constructed, they were also added to this system, and the plant was able to accommodate them. Until very recently all campus buildings except the McGrew Fine Arts Center were heated and lighted by A. T. Simmons' Central Heating Plant. This facility was considered very modern when it was constructed, compared with other colleges and institutions that used coal furnaces in each individual building. The Quakers' concern for practicality led them to adopt an innovative system that has fulfilled these expectations.

The wisdom and vision of Simmons' plan became further apparent over the years, as problems developed with the newer buildings. Instead of employing Simmons' idea of connecting these additional buildings through tunnels, the new buildings were connected by above-ground pipes that carried the steam. These pipes received much exposure, and severe winter weather repeatedly damaged them. Eventually the newer buildings were disconnected from the system and given individual boilers of their own. Today, Penn and Lewis Hall, Spencer Memorial Chapel, and the gymnasium and addition are still heated and lighted through the use of the Central Heating Plant. Those pipes and wires that run through Simmons' tunnels have needed relatively little repair beyond normal maintenance.

RESOURCE COUNT JUSTIFICATION

As indicated in Section 7, the Penn College Historic District contains eleven resources.

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The total area of this historic district--the site--is counted as one contributing resource because it provides physical characteristics which influenced where elements of the historic district were located and how they would interact with one another and the surrounding environment.

Penn Hall is counted as one contributing resource because it calls direct attention to A. T. Simmons' architectural design for this building and his concept plan for the new-site Penn College campus.

Spencer Memorial Chapel is counted as one contributing resource because it calls direct attention to A. T. Simmons' concept plan for the new-site Penn College campus.

The Gymnasium and addition is counted as one noncontributing resource because its construction postdates the period of significance as defined in this nomination.

The Penn College Quadrangle is counted as one contributing resource because it calls direct attention to A. T. Simmons' concept plan for the new-site Penn College campus.

The Southeast Memorial Gate and the Southwest Memorial Gate are each counted as contributing resources because they call attention to landscape architectural embellishments to the Penn College Quadrangle, as well as to historical events associated with World War II and Penn College's responses to that conflict.

The Women's Residence Building is counted as one contributing resource because it calls direct attention to A. T. Simmons' architectural design for that building and his concept plan for the new-site Penn College campus.

The Central Heating Plat is counted as one contributing resource because it calls direct attention to A. T. Simmons' architectural design.

The Industrial Arts Building #1 is counted as one noncontributing resource because its construction postdates the period of significance as defined in this nomination.

The tennis courts are counted as one noncontributing resource because their construction postdates the period of significance as defined in this nomination.

REPRESENTATION IN OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEYS

The William Penn College campus was surveyed in 1981 as part of the Area XV Regional Planning Commission's then comprehensive cultural resources surveys of Mahaska County. At that time, the Historical Survey did not identify or evaluate this campus within the context of Quaker resources in Oskaloosa. The Architectural Survey evaluated the complex as potentially eligible for nomination as a historic district, under National Register Criterion C, stating that:

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This represents a planned collegiate development by architect A. T. Simmons from the second decade of this century. In 1922 the Spencer Chapel was designed by Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson but its placement on campus was dictated by the original Simmons plan... If N. R. eligibility is determined, it will be based on historical as well as architectural significance. (Naumann)

In the intervening years, more information has come to light regarding this resource and its place within the historic context "The Quaker Testimony in Oskaloosa, Iowa."

POTENTIAL FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Although the site's potential for historical archaeological research is, as yet, unevaluated, there appears to be some possibility.

In excavating for the foundation of Spencer Memorial Chapel in 1922, workmen found the remains of the old home once occupied by John White, original owner of the tract of land subsequently purchased by Penn College with money donated by Charles and Albert Johnson. Although this site has been disturbed, there is the possibility that other sites associated with outbuildings on the White Farm may be undisturbed.

The site of the original campus well for drinking water was located about 100' south of the center of Penn Hall's south elevation. It is no longer in use, nor is it visible today (Robert Pierson interview, June 11, 1992).

The site of the first Iowa Yearly Meeting House in Oskaloosa, which might provide important data, is located to the west and the south of the present William Penn College campus.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH AND REGISTRATION

It is recommended that further research should seek additional information about Ray F. Weirick (some sources call him Floyd Wyrick). A landscape architect, or perhaps nurseryman, by profession, Weirick gave a series of four lectures at the Iowa Year Meeting House-College Avenue Friends Church in 1917 (*Penn Chronicle*, January 31, 1917). He also reportedly designed a planting plan for the new-site Penn College campus.

Such information might shed light on landscape architectural planning at Penn College, provide an additional area of significance for the Penn College Historic District, and result in an amendment to this nomination.

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Spencer Chapel

Eckhardt, "Proudfoot and Bird," Ph. D. dissertation for the University of Iowa.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of 1927.
Scrapbook Collection, William Penn College Archives.
The Oskaloosa Daily Herald, June 16, 1916, p. 1. col. 2.
Watson, *William Penn College*, pp. 77-78.
Robert Pierson, interview with Joanne R. Walroth, June 11, 1992.
Marion Rains, interview with Joanne R. Walroth, April 6, 1992.
Martha Berry Johnson, interview with Joanne R. Walroth, February 7, 1992.
Charles Russell, interview with Joanne R. Walroth, January 23, 1992.
Bruce and Mary Palmer, interviews with Joanne R. Walroth, April 27, 1992.

Historic Images

Allen Bowman has provided from the William Penn College Archives an aerial view of the college taken on October 22, 1926, that shows Penn and Lewis Halls, Spencer Chapel, the Central Heating Plant, and a private residence southeast of Penn Hall. From the same collection he has also provided a 1922 picture showing the laying of the cornerstone, and a more recent photo of the interior of the chapel auditorium, dated on the back in pencil, "about 1926 or 27."

Penn Hall

A. T. Simmons' original drawings and plans for the building.
Watson, *William Penn College*, pp. 76, 78-79, 81-82.
Penn Chronicle, October 25, 1916.
"Catalog of 1917-1918 and Announcements for 1918-1919," *Penn College Bulletin*, New Series 10, no. 1, February 1918.
Penn College Bulletin, New Series 9, no. 6, November 1917.
Mattison, "History," p. 7.
Sanborn Fire Insurance map of 1917 from architect's drawing; 1927.
Martha Berry Johnson, interview with Joanne R. Walroth, February 7, 1992.

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Robert Pierson, interview with Joanne R. Walroth, June 11, 1992.

Historic Images

A. T. Simmons' original colored rendering of Penn Hall now hangs in Wilcox Library. Also this drawing was reprinted in "The Promised Land," (*Penn College Bulletin*) new series 8, no. 1 (June 1916), pp. 1-8 and also in *The Oskaloosa Daily Herald*, July 3, 1916, p. 6, cols. -7.

Women's Residence Building

A. T. Simmons' original drawings and plans for the building.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of 1917 from architect's drawing; 1927.
Penn College Bulletin, New Series 9, No. 6 (November 1917).
"Catalog of 1917-1918 and Announcements for 1918-1919," *Penn College Bulletin*, New Series 10, no. 1 (February 1918).
Watson, *William Penn College*, pp. 76-77, 79.
Anna M. T. Kelsey, "The New Dormitory."
Penn Chronicle, October 25, 1916.
Martha Berry Johnson, interview with Joanne R. Walroth, February 7, 1992.
Robert Pierson, interview with Joanne R. Walroth, June 11, 1992.

Historic Images

Allen Bowman has provided from the William Penn College Archives one oversize picture that shows both Penn and Lewis Halls on May 1, 1922. All of the students and faculty are sitting or standing in rows in front of the buildings. He has also provided an aerial view of the college taken on October 22, 1926, which shows Penn and Lewis Halls, Spencer Chapel, the Central Heating Plant, and a private residence southeast of Penn Hall. In addition, he has provided two small photos of Lewis Hall. One is an undated exterior view, the other is a shot of the first floor outer hallway (or covered porch) that runs the length of the building north to south. On the back, the date 1925 has been written on in pencil.

There is a portrait of Rosa Lewis as the frontispiece in her pamphlet, "History of Penn College."

Central Heating Plant

Penn Chronicle, October 25, 1916.

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"Catalog of 1917-1918 and Announcements for 1918-1918," *Penn College Bulletin*, New Series 9, No. 1, (February 1918).
Watson, *William Penn College*, p. 77.
Robert Pierson, interview with Joanne R. Walroth, June 11, 1992.

Historic Images

Allen Bowman has provided from the William Penn College Archives an aerial view of the college taken on October 22, 1926, that shows Penn and Lewis Halls, Spencer Chapel, the Central Heating Plant, and a private residence southeast of Penn Hall. He has also provided from the same collection another picture of the central heating plant, undated.

Southeast and Southwest Memorial Gates

Robert Pierson, interview with Joanne R. Walroth, June 11, 1992.
Bruce and Mary Palmer, interviews with Joanne R. Walroth, April 27, 1992.

Industrial Arts Building #1

Robert Pierson, interview with Joanne R. Walroth, June 11, 1992.
Sanborn Fire Insurance map of 1917 from architect's drawing; 1927.
Penn Chronicle, October 25, 1916.
"Catalog of 1917-1918 and Announcements for 1918-1918," *Penn College Bulletin*, New Series 9, No. 1, (February 1918).
Watson, *William Penn College*, p. 77.

Gymnasium and Addition

Robert Pierson, interview with Joanne R. Walroth, June 11, 1992.
Scrapbook Collection, William Penn College Archives.
Watson, *William Penn College*, pp. 79-80, 207.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning in the center of the intersection of North Market Street (U. S. Highway 163) and Trueblood Avenue, thence 1,000 feet north, then 600 feet west, thence 1,000 feet south, thence 600 feet east, to the point of beginning, all in the City of Oskaloosa, Iowa.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The National Register boundary contains all land, associated historically with William Penn College, which has had physical improvements constructed upon it during the period of significance for this nomination.

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LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Penn College Historic District
201 Trueblood Avenue
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Southwest Memorial Gate
Looking north
Patricia Pierce Patterson, Photographer
April 24, 1994
2. Penn College Historic District
201 Trueblood Avenue
Oskaloosa, IA 52557
Penn Hall
Looking north
Patricia Pierce Patterson, Photographer
April 24, 1994
3. Penn College Historic District
201 Trueblood Avenue
Oskaloosa, IA 52557
Penn Hall
Looking northwest
Patricia Pierce Patterson, Photographer
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4. Penn College Historic District
201 Trueblood Avenue
Oskaloosa, IA 52557
Penn Hall
Looking northeast
Patricia Pierce Patterson, Photographer
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5. Penn College Historic District
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Southeast Memorial Gate
Looking northwest
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6. Penn College Historic District
201 Trueblood Avenue
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Spencer Memorial Chapel
Looking northeast
Patricia Pierce Patterson, Photographer
April 24, 1994
7. Penn College Historic District
201 Trueblood Avenue
Oskaloosa, IA 52557
Women's Residence Building
Looking northeast
Patricia Pierce Patterson, Photographer
April 24, 1994
8. Penn College Historic District
201 Trueblood Avenue
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Women's Residence Building
Looking southeast
Patricia Pierce Patterson, Photographer
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9. Penn College Historic District
201 Trueblood Avenue
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Central Heating Plant
Looking northwest
Patricia Pierce Patterson, Photographer
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10. Penn College Historic District
201 Trueblood Avenue
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Industrial Arts Building #1
Looking southeast
Patricia Pierce Patterson, Photographer
April 24, 1994