

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 28 1975
DATE ENTERED JUN 13 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Willis Hall (New Hall)

AND/OR COMMON

Willis Hall

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Carleton College

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Northfield

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

27

COUNTY

Rice

CODE

009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Carleton College

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Northfield

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds -- Rice County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

218 Northwest 3rd Street

CITY, TOWN

Faribault

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1973

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society -- Bldg. 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

Saint Paul

STATE

Minnesota

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Designed in the French Second Empire style, Willis Hall is a two story stone bearing wall building with a dormer space beneath the frame, third floor, mansard roof. The building is graced on all four sides with rounded arched fenestration distinguished by carved stone window caps. The building facades are broken by the raised corner pilaster columns.

The exterior is moderately changed from its 1872 appearance, mainly resulting from a fire in 1879 which extensively damaged the tower, third floor roof line and wood interior. The rebuilding resulted in modification to the tower design above the second floor with the addition of clocks in the four-sided peaked roof. The mansard roof was also slightly modified at the same time with the elimination of a cornice at the top roof line and a more stylized appearance to the rebuilt third floor dormers. Since 1879, the only exterior alteration has been the addition of an enclosed rear entry in the 1960s.

The interior was extensively remodeled during its conversion to a student union in 1954. Despite alterations and continued use, the building has been well maintained by the school.

Willis Hall is located at the western edge of the Carleton College campus. Although now screened by Burton Hall, from its former vista to the Cannon River below, its tower and flagpole can still be seen, high on the river's bluff, upon approaching the city from either the north or south.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1868-1872, 1878, 1954 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Builder: D.C. Hill of Red Wing, Minn.
Alterations Architect: Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed between 1868 and 1872, Willis Hall is representative of the founding of Carleton College, a small midwestern liberal arts college, which is most well known for being the educational home of the internationally renowned economist, Thorsen Veblen.

Carleton College built Willis Hall as its first permanent facility, laying the cornerstone in 1868. Completed and dedicated in 1872, the building functioned as the entire school for the first few years, housing the chapel and men's dormitory in addition to classrooms. It was originally called New Hall but the name was quickly changed to Willis Hall in honor of Susan Willis, one of the schools early benefactors.

It continued to function as the school's main educational facility until 1954 when it was reopened as the Student Union, a service which continues up to the present.

Willis Hall is an example of an architectural style, French Second Empire which continues to become an increasing rarity in Minnesota. Despite a fire in 1879 which required the rebuilding of the tower above the second floor and modification to the mansard roof, the building remains today one of the better examples of this style remaining in Minnesota. It is also one of a diminishing collection of buildings in the state which was illustrated in the 1874 Andreas Illustrated Atlas of Minnesota; a statewide atlas of county and city maps with pictures of the states' most distinctive architectural specimens of the time.

Despite the modifications and over a hundred years of continued use, the building remains an excellent representation of 19th century stone craftsmanship; once common but now rare in Minnesota's educational edifices. It remains as a fitting architectural anchor to the Carleton College campus.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carleton: The First Century. By Leal A. Headley and Merrill E. Jachow, Carleton College Press, Northfield, 1966.

History of Rice County, Minn.; ed. by Rev. Edward D. Neill, pub. by Minnesota Historical Society, Minneapolis, 1882.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM OK - HR

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1,5 | 4,8,7,6,1,0 | 4,9,2,2,8,3,0

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | |

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | | | |

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D | | | |

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Thomas Lutz in conjunction with Mrs. Ruthmary Penick, Archivist for Carleton College

ORGANIZATION

Minnesota Historical Society/Carleton College

DATE

11 March 1975

STREET & NUMBER

Bldg. 25, Fort Snelling/--

TELEPHONE

612-726-1171/--

CITY OR TOWN

St. Paul/Northfield

STATE

Minnesota/Minnesota

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Russell W. Fridley

TITLE Russell W. Fridley

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3/28/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

R. A. [Signature]

DATE

6/13/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

[Signature]

DATE

JUN 12 1975

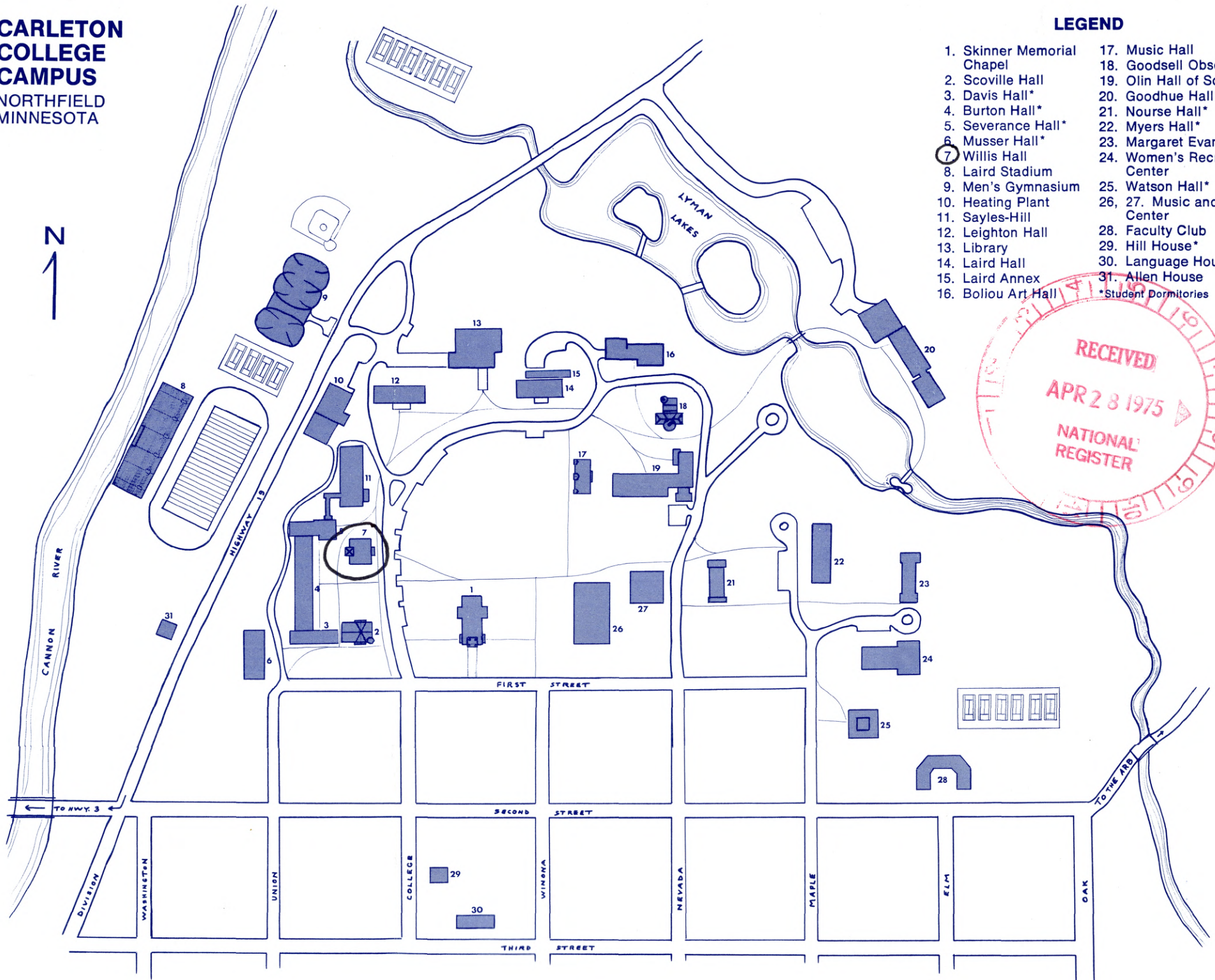
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**CARLETON
COLLEGE
CAMPUS**
NORTHFIELD
MINNESOTA



LEGEND

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Skinner Memorial Chapel | 17. Music Hall |
| 2. Scoville Hall | 18. Goodsell Observatory |
| 3. Davis Hall* | 19. Olin Hall of Science |
| 4. Burton Hall* | 20. Goodhue Hall* |
| 5. Severance Hall* | 21. Nourse Hall* |
| 6. Musser Hall* | 22. Myers Hall* |
| 7. Willis Hall | 23. Margaret Evans Hall* |
| 8. Laird Stadium | 24. Women's Recreation Center |
| 9. Men's Gymnasium | 25. Watson Hall* |
| 10. Heating Plant | 26, 27. Music and Drama Center |
| 11. Sayles-Hill | 28. Faculty Club |
| 12. Leighton Hall | 29. Hill House* |
| 13. Library | 30. Language House* |
| 14. Laird Hall | 31. Allen House |
| 15. Laird Annex | *Student Dormitories |
| 16. Boliou Art Hall | |



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 28 1975
DATE ENTERED	JUN 18 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Willis Hall (New Hall)

AND/OR COMMON

Willis Hall

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Northfield

___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Rice

STATE

Minnesota

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

Carleton College

SCALE

Unknown

DATE

1970

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lynn
11/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Note: These changes apply to
Willis Hall in Rice County,
Minnesota.

REFERENCE NUMBER: 75001026

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Rice

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Willis Hall, Carlton College

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: College St.

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date