

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 28 1977

DATE ENTERED MAR 24 1978

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Old Presbyterian Theological Seminary

AND/OR COMMON

Jefferson Community College

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

109 East Broadway

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 and 4

STATE

Kentucky

___ VICINITY OF

CODE
021

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

111

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Commonwealth of Kentucky

STREET & NUMBER

State Capitol Building

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

531 West Jefferson

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Ever since its construction in the first decade of the 20th century, this U-shaped complex of structures has served as an impressive and unique example of Collegiate Gothic architecture in Jefferson County. Although now part of a fast-growing urban state college, the Seminary complex basically maintains its original exterior appearance and integrity.

The Seminary buildings, faced with white limestone brought from quarries near Bowling Green in southwestern Kentucky, open onto a landscaped quadrangle at the northeast corner of First and Broadway in downtown Louisville. Although the buildings were constructed singly over a seven-year period as the Seminary's budget allowed, they are physically joined and appear as a single unit. The three-story complex which is not symmetrical, features numerous gabled wall dormers, bays, and battlements broken by irregular fenestration. Most of the Gothic-arched windows, articulated with stone tracery, are set in rectangular openings with stilted arched window lintels. In general, the windows are tall and narrow except for small horizontal openings scattered at intervals around the third floor.

The west wing includes Grant-Robinson Hall and the "Annex"; Harbison Chapel (see photos 2 and 5) Lucy Stites Barrett Library, and the Refectory form the central portion (see photo 7); the east wing consists of Haldeman Hall and Todd Memorial Hall (see photo 1).

A four-story projecting entranceway with thin octagonal towers dominates the central portion of the complex (originally the Library). The towers, which contain empty niches at the second floor level, are capped with richly carved stone details. At the ground level, the gently arched entrance door is offset to the east with a smaller window to the left. The double doors themselves are recessed, and stone carvings within the entrance archway include the heads of Plato, Augustine, Alfred the Great, Charlemagne, John Calvin, and John Knox. The center of the entry is pierced by a large triple-arched leaded glass window. The battlement between the towers contains a clockface.

To the west of the Library is Harbison Chapel, which features a pair of two-story leaded glass windows separated by an elaborately carved plaque containing dedicatory remarks. The Refectory, to the east of the Library, repeats the massing of the Chapel wall, but the Gothic-arched windows are set in rectangular openings.

The west wing is also dominated by an entranceway, but the effect of the Grant-Robinson portal is of massiveness and squareness, rather than height. Two flat-topped, four-story towers define the entranceway, which bears a carved Biblical inscription. Five windows with elaborate stone tracery are grouped above the doorway at the second floor level, and four windows without detail are on the third floor. To the north of the Grant-Robinson entry, two first-floor bay windows break the wall surface. A modest doorway with stone tracery in the far north end of the building marks the entrance to the Annex. Three gable wall dormers control the groupings of windows on the third floor which has a projecting two-story central bay.

(continued)

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES **1903-1909**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT **William J. Dodd, Architect**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Louisville masterpiece of architect William J. Dodd, this complex of Collegiate Gothic buildings has served the city as an educational institution for more than half a century, first as the Presbyterian Theological Seminary and now as part of the campus of state-owned Jefferson Community College. The buildings stood vacant only a few years between removal of the Seminary to a suburban campus and purchase in 1966 for renovation as a contemporary college facility.

Constructed over a seven-year period from 1903 to 1909, the buildings have long received recognition as one of Louisville's architectural showpieces. At the dedication ceremony for the final building of the complex in 1909, Professor Pilcher, a "noted professor of architecture in the East," remarked that "the building had no parallel in its magnificent architectural style in all the West."

The Presbyterian Theological Seminary was formed in 1901, the result of the consolidation of the Danville Seminary (founded by the Northern Church in 1853) and the Louisville Seminary (founded by the Southern Church in 1893). It is the only school in the United States jointly owned by the two branches of the Presbyterian Church. The school was housed in a building at Second and Jacob in Louisville until property was procured at First and Broadway. A large brick house, the only structure on the property, accommodated the chapel, library, classroom and some student rooms. In 1902, additional adjacent land was purchased, a building committee was formed and serious concern was given to construction of an adequate Seminary facility.

The building committee chose a plan by architect William J. Dodd, then of Dodd and Cobb (later of McDonald and Dodd). Dodd (1862-1930) received his architectural training in Chicago under William Henney and S. S. Beman. He had worked on plans for the new town of Pullman and as an architect for the Northern Pacific Railway before coming to Louisville in 1884. In his partnership with McDonald, Dodd completed such Louisville structures as the Seelbach Hotel (listed on the National Register August 12, 1975) and the First Christian Church.

Dodd's plan allowed the buildings to be constructed individually, as the Seminary solicited the funds for each, with the completed complex forming a U-shaped unit around an open courtyard. The buildings, ground and furnishings cost a total of \$230,000.

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Surveys

Title: Historic American Buildings Survey 1974 federal
Depository: United States Library of Congress
Washington, D. C.

Title: Metropolitan Preservation Plan 1973 local
Depository: Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency
Louisville, Kentucky

Title: Brown-Doherty Survey 1960 local
Depository: Louisville and Jefferson County Planning Commission
Louisville, Kentucky

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Only the east wing offers a semblance of symmetry. A gable wall dormer with a fourth-story porthole window tops the central bay and is flanked by two smaller gable dormers on each side. On the first floor, double windows separate the central bay from small entrance doors on each side, the north one leading into Haldeman Hall and the south to Todd Memorial Hall. The doorways, both reached by short flights of steps, are each different and unlike any other part of the complex in their detailing. On Haldeman Hall, downward-tapering pilasters support scrolls which accent a tiny pediment above the round-arched doorway. A pediment resting on scrolled half-columns marks the doorway to Todd.

Elaborately carved Gothic gateposts, about 12 feet in height (see photo 4) lead up low steps from Broadway into the quadrangle formed by the U-shape of the complex. Now paved in exposed aggregate concrete, the courtyard contains four trapezoidal plots with trees, concrete retaining walls and contemporary wooden benches. A ramp has been added to the Todd entrance door.

The gable and facades of the east and west wings of the complex, facing Broadway, are similar in size and massing, but different in detail. The facades feature four spiraled Florentine building corners, with octagonal turrets at the third-floor level. Delicately carved finials top each turret and grace the peak of the gable. On the west wing, a central two-story window opening with stone tracery sits above an elaborately carved plaque. A two-story central bay marks the end facade of the east wing.

The First Street facade of the west wing is broken by a large rectangular bay, articulated by early Gothic wall buttresses. Attention focuses on the large, arched-window opening in the center of the complex in the stairhall of Grant-Robinson (see photo 3). The original leaded glass has been replaced with clear glass. The east facade of the east wing is now obscured by an elevated interstate highway which runs next to the building.

The rear of the complex is painted brick, with flat-arched window openings except for the three Gothic-arched chapel windows. Two square towers form a grouping with the library entrance towers to define a central hall for the entire complex. A brick and concrete courtyard connects the original Seminary buildings with the concrete, twelve-story classroom tower built for Jefferson Community College in 1973.

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Major renovation work was undertaken during 1967-68, when the building was converted for use as a community college. The Seminary removed the chimes and several leaded glass windows for re-use elsewhere. All original wood sash was removed and replaced with aluminum windows, and acoustical ceilings were installed in all areas except the Refectory and Chapel. Wooden stairs were removed and replaced with steel fire stairs, except in the Barrett Library entrance hall. Dormitory space was refitted for classroom use, and the Chapel and Refectory were converted to the library reading rooms and stack areas. The basement bowling alleys were removed and a commons area established.

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The initial building fund provided for construction of a dormitory and the Refectory, both begun in 1903 and dedicated in October 1904. The dormitory was a gift from the family of Walter N. Haldeman, noted Louisville newspaper man. Haldeman (1821-1902) was editor and publisher of the Courier in 1844, until it joined with the Journal under Henry Watterson in 1868; he later founded the Louisville Times. The Refectory, which included a dining room, kitchen, serving room and some student rooms, was later named in honor of Mrs. Mary Richardson Belknap, in recognition of a substantial financial gift to the Seminary.

Construction then began on a library, donated by James J. Barrett in memory of his wife, Mrs. Lucy Stites Barrett. The Library which adjoined the Refectory, included the Seminary's main entrance hall, a reception room, social center, librarian's office, reference and reading room, and a fire-proof stackroom for 32,000 volumes.

Following completion of the library in mid-1906, the original brick residence was demolished and construction began on the chapel, an administration building, and an annex between the two. The chapel, with seating for 250, was built by funds from Mrs. Alexander McLennan as a memorial to her father, John J. Harbison (1829-1906), a prominent city merchant and a director of the Seminary. A pipe-organ, memorial window from the Lambs Studio in New York City, and the furnishings were included in the donation. Other windows represented seals of the Presbyterian and other reformed churches. The chapel ceiling is of oak with exposed trusses.

The administration building, the major structure on the west wing of the complex, was provided by a bequest from W. T. Grant. The largest and most expensive of the buildings, Grant-Robinson included a directors' room, administration offices, four classrooms with adjacent professors' studies, and some dormitory space. Tudor furniture was installed, and a large memorial window graced the main stair hall. The annex included two more classrooms with studies and some additional residential space.

In 1908, construction began on the final building, Todd Memorial Hall, adjacent to Haldeman on the east wing. Funds were given by the children of James and Mary Todd in honor of their parents. Dedication of the building in 1909 marked the completion of the Seminary complex as originally designed. Funds had also been provided by John T. Cooper and his sisters for construction of a gateway, dedicated in December of 1907. A set of Westminster chimes, given in memory of William F. Booker by his wife, were installed in the main entrance tower in 1911.

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The Seminary continuously operated within the building without major alterations or additions until 1963, when the school moved to a new campus on Alta Vista Road. In 1929, however, a suburban campus site was donated to the Seminary, and consideration was given to moving from the First and Broadway location. Although talk included moving the Dodd building to the new site, the entire plan was eventually abandoned.

Selection of the Seminary complex as the facility for Jefferson County's first community college was approved by a city bond issue in 1965. The building was purchased for approximately \$400,000, renovation and remodeling was undertaken by the Louisville architectural firm of Lewis and Henry, and the college opened its doors in January 1968. Within a few years, Jefferson Community College has become the largest of the Commonwealth's community colleges and now serves an enrollment of over 5,000. Although the campus has expanded with the construction of two new buildings, the original Seminary complex and courtyard remains the visual focal point for the campus.

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Historic American Buildings Survey. Unpublished research by David Arbogast, 1974.

"In Service -- Presbyterian Seminary's New Buildings." Courier-Journal,
October 14, 1904.

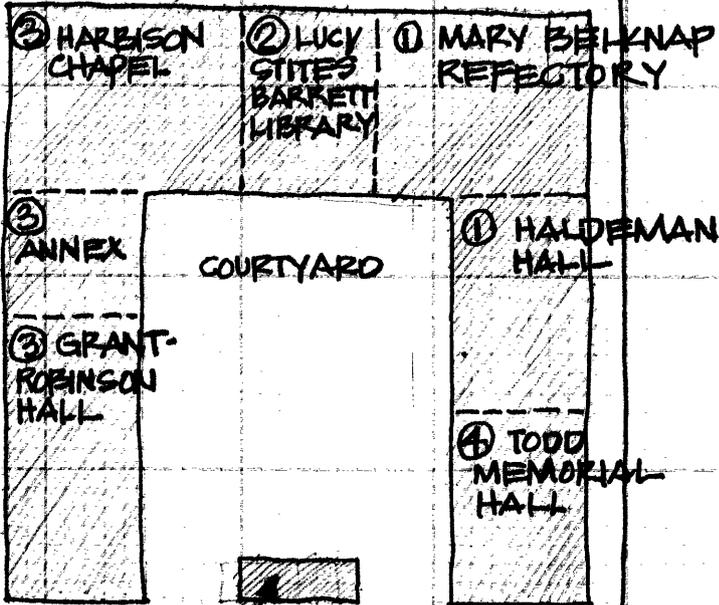
"Presbyterians Plan New Seminary." Courier-Journal, March 1, 1929.

Sanders, Robert Stuart. History of Louisville Presbyterian Seminary 1853-1953.
1953.

"Triumph of Architectural Beauty." Louisville Times, December 31, 1909.

CLASSROOM
TOWER

LIMIT OF NOMINATED SITE



NORTH

FIRST STREET

I-65

BROADWAY

NUMBERS INDICATE ORDER
IN WHICH PORTIONS OF BUILDING
WERE CONSTRUCTED.

PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY/
JEFFERSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

