

1400-1091

STATE: IOWA
 COUNTY: HENRY
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE: MAR 26 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



1. NAME

COMMON: Old Main
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: On the Iowa Wesleyan College campus, 100 yards south of Broad
 CITY OR TOWN: Street, between Main and Broadway Streets
 Mount Pleasant
 STATE: Iowa CODE: 14 COUNTY: Henry CODE: 87

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Iowa Wesleyan College
 STREET AND NUMBER: 601 North Main
 CITY OR TOWN: Mount Pleasant STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Recorder's Office, Henry County Courthouse
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: Mount Pleasant STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
 DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Old Main is a three-story brick building 55 x 100 feet, constructed of local brick, which had been prepared by Benjamin Franklin Pearson of Keosauqua, builder of the historic Pearson home and other buildings in Keosauqua. The facade has a modified classic appearance with careful spacing of windows and doorways for simplicity and clarity of design.

The arched windows and doorways are accentuated with granite hoods and the front facade is marked by brick pilasters for the lower level. The wall and roof edges are marked by a continuous wood cornice spaced by wooden pilasters. The building is surmounted by a square wooden cupola topped with a low dome which has traditionally been painted gold.

The interior of the building is divided into two equal parts by a central stairwell with gracefully curving staircase and landings between each level. These are surmounted by an arch of pleasing dimensions. Each stair landing has a large window of colored glasses.

The layout of the interior is entirely functional with classrooms of various sizes opening from a central hallway on the first and second levels. The rooms on the third level are of more generous proportions since they were originally designed for such purposes as library, natural history museum and chapel.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

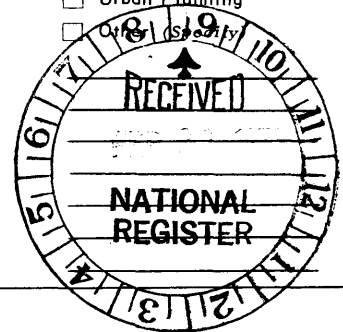
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1854**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Old Main was planned and built under the leadership of College President, James Harlan (1853-1855). At the time of his acceptance of the presidency, the institution was called the Mount Pleasant Collegiate Institute. The change of name to Iowa Wesleyan University with a new Iowa State Charter took place in 1855, as one of the goals of James Harlan in his presidency. The second goal was the construction of Old Main. James Harlan resigned the presidency of Iowa Wesleyan University in 1855 to become United States Senator from Iowa. He held that position until 1872 with a brief gap when he served as Secretary of the Interior (1865-1867). He returned to Mount Pleasant in 1873 and remained there until his death on October 5, 1899. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of Iowa Wesleyan from his resignation as president until his death.

The minutes of the Board of Trustees for the Mount Pleasant Collegiate Institute for June 1853 authorize a campaign to raise \$15,000.00 for the construction of the building. A fund drive was conducted by James Harlan and the Reverend Isaac F. Stewart, a member of the Iowa Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who had been appointed Agent of the Institute. This campaign continued during the summer of 1853 on a door-to-door solicitation. In March 1854, the Trustees authorized the construction of a building 55 x 100 feet. Bids were advertised in The Observer on March 28, 1854, and the contract was let to Alexander Lee on April 27, 1854. The cornerstone was laid with special civic ceremonies on July 4, 1854, and the sale of scholarship bonds for additional funds was authorized on October 3, 1854.

The earliest representation of the building is an idealized steel engraving used on college stationery and on the scholarship bonds sold in 1855 and subsequent years. A copy of an extant blank scholarship bond is attached.

Some construction work and all of the brick burning was done by Benjamin Franklin Pearson of Keosauqua, Iowa, builder of the historic Pearson House and other buildings in the state.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- "Iowa Wesleyan University," The History of Henry County, Iowa. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1879, pp. 414-429.
- John W. Hancher and Carl S. Williams, Historical Sketch and Alumni Record of Iowa Wesleyan University. Mount Pleasant, 1905.

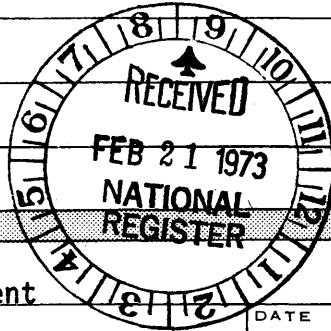
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		40°	58'	31"
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "		91°	32'	34"
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Dr. Louis A. Haselmayer, President

ORGANIZATION: Iowa Wesleyan College DATE: August 7, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 601 North Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Mount Pleasant STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Adrian A. Anderson

Title State Liaison Officer

Date 2/12/73

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert W. Utley
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/26/73

ATTEST:
J. Bradford
Keeper of The National Register
Date 3/21/73

NO
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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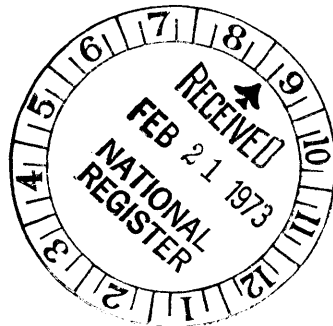
8. Significance

Statement of Significance - continued

The building was first occupied for classes in the fall term of 1855. It has been used continuously by Iowa Wesleyan College for classes since that day. At one time the building housed a natural history museum, the college chapel and the college library as well as social halls of the Literary Societies.

The P. E. O. Sisterhood, an international women's organization, was founded by seven Iowa Wesleyan College women students on January 21, 1869 in the second floor music room. That room was designated by the Iowa State Chapter of the P. E. O. Sisterhood as the Founders' Room in 1917 when a bronze plaque was placed on the wall. The room was set aside as a memorial site at that time and is under the care of Chapter Original A of the P. E. O. Sisterhood, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

During the nineteenth century, the building was known simply as "the main building" or "the main edifice." After the construction of the Iowa Wesleyan Chapel building in 1892 and Hershey Hall in 1898, the names "Main" and then "Old Main" developed by common usage. A variety of college publications shows the gradual un-official movement from lower-case to upper-case letters.



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Iowa	
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(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References - continued

3. Herbert Jeffrey and Ben Hur Wilson. Historical Sketch and Alumni Record of Iowa Wesleyan College. Mount Pleasant, 1917.
4. Charles J. Kennedy and Lillian Kendig Rogers. History and Alumni Record of Iowa Wesleyan College 1842-1942. Mount Pleasant, 1942.
5. Louis A. Haselmayer. History and Alumni Directory. Iowa Wesleyan College 1842-1967. Mount Pleasant, 1967.
6. Johnson Brigham. James Harlan. State Historical Society of Iowa. Iowa City, 1913.
7. Louis A. Haselmayer. The Presidents of Iowa Wesleyan College. Mount Pleasant. 1967.
8. Louis A. Haselmayer. The P. E. O. Sisterhood at Iowa Wesleyan College. Mount Pleasant. 1967.
9. Mary H. Ovrom. "The House Acquired by Chance," The Iowan, Spring 1966, pp.46-50. Biographical material on Benjamin Franklin Pearson. Error in article is noted by Louis A. Haselmayer, The Iowan, Summer 1966, p. 52.
10. Mount Pleasant Collegiat Institute, Record L, Page 2

