

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAR 26 1986

date entered JUL 11 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Old Main

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number University of Wyoming Campus, Ninth St. and Ivinson Ave. not for publication

city, town Laramie vicinity of

state Wyoming code 056 county Albany code 001

3. Classification

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | n/a in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | n/a being considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name State of Wyoming Executive Officer in charge of property is Dr. Donald L. Veal, President

street & number University of Wyoming, Old Main

city, town Laramie vicinity of state Wyoming

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office, Courthouse, Albany County

street & number Fifth Street and Ivinson Avenue

city, town Laramie state Wyoming

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title n/a has this property been determined eligible? n/a yes n/a no

date n/a n/a federal n/a state n/a county n/a local

depository for survey records n/a

city, town n/a state n/a

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 <u>n/a</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

In 1890 the skyline of Laramie, Wyoming, was dominated by a massive 2 1/2 story stone structure; the building's octagonal stone tower with a steeply pitched conical spire acted as a landmark for the town. Although the color and texture of the structure is comparable to the surrounding high plains of the Laramie Basin, the building's rich ornamental details such as the pinnacled dormers and tudor arches set it apart from other Laramie edifices. The University of Wyoming's oldest structure, known today as Old Main, occupies a prominent block in the center of the state's fifth largest city, Laramie. In 1886 the builders of Old Main established an architectural tradition that others followed as the University grew from one building to over fifty structures. Generally most of the University structures, constructed during the twentieth century, are substantial native sandstone buildings that derive their limited ornamentation from "revival" architectural styles and are typical collegiate buildings. Yet Old Main's facade expresses an eclectic architectural tradition common to other Wyoming structures built during the late nineteenth century. In an attempt to incorporate popular architectural styles of the day, architect Fred Hale of Denver drew upon the Romanesque Revival style for details such as the rock-faced surface articulation, the original tower, and the semicircular arches, while he also relied upon Chateausque features as expressed in his steeply pitched roof, dormers with pinnacled gables, and linteled windows. This combination of styles gives Old Main a truly distinctive appearance within the state. The color, texture, and vernacular design of this large 2 1/2 story structure seem to fit the surrounding environs of Laramie's semi-arid high plains. Over the years some of Old Main's original architectural features were removed and the interior of the building was gutted in 1949. Fortunately, important exterior architectural elements survived so the building conveys integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and association. This public building was and still is an impressive structure which communicates the builder's nineteenth century desire for stability and permanence. For purposes of the National Register nomination, the boundaries for Old Main include native vegetation and an uninterrupted vista of the structure from Ninth Street and Ivinson Avenue.

On March 4, 1886, Governor Frances E. Warren of Wyoming Territory signed the act which authorized establishment of the University and appropriated \$50,000 for construction of a building. For the site the building commission obtained an undivided (no streets) square of land comprising four city blocks (157, 158, 181, 182) in Laramie's old town subdivision. Old Main stands close to, but not on, the center of the square at the west edge of blocks 157, 182, leaving the other two blocks, which made up the west half of the square, vacant until 1922 when a Library (now the Aven Nelson Memorial Building) was erected on block 158. Block 181 has never had a building on it.

See Addendum

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/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates 1886–1895 **Builder/Architect** Cook and Callahan/Fred Hale

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

In 1887 the population of Wyoming territory (97,914 sq. miles) had still not reached 50,000. Cheyenne, the territorial capital and largest community, boasted 9,000 souls, while Laramie, her sister city to the west had no more than 5,000. Anticipating statehood, the people of Wyoming were determined to have a university. Such an institution would provide education for Wyoming's future leaders, and would assist in attracting and maintaining population. Laramie was chosen as the site and construction of the Wyoming University was begun in 1886. The building now known as Old Main constituted that University. Designed when builders were encouraged to draw upon the full spectrum of classical, medieval and renaissance traditions for inspiration, Old Main demonstrates an unusual combination of Chateausque and Romanesque elements. Its style is unique within the state and makes it one of Wyoming's most distinctive public buildings, second only to the state capitol in public recognition. Though the University of Wyoming campus has grown to more than 50 buildings, Old Main is the only building on campus constructed during Wyoming's territorial period, and one of only a handful of territorial institutional buildings left standing. Though its construction set an early standard for solid but distinctive architecture for the campus, other campus buildings reflect later traditions and stylistic influences. These other buildings were constructed and continue to serve as an interrelated and functionally dependent campus complex. Old Main, on the other hand, is the only building in the state constructed to house the entire University.

Wyoming is the only state in the union to have only one four year undergraduate and graduate degree-granting institution. This means that the University has been a major factor in the state's twentieth century social, educational, political and economic history. Additionally, in a state where distance and weather tend to isolate communities, the University is the one institution which transcends all others to unify people of various ethnic, religious, economic and cultural backgrounds, thus providing opportunities for growth and experiences which would not otherwise be available. In a state population of only 470,000, roughly 16% of the adults are former U.W. students.

(See Addendum)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Deed Record Books G and H, Albany County Clerk's Office, Courthouse
Interviews with Laramie, Wyoming residents: Dr. Don Blackstone (geologist), and three Laramie architects, Peter R. Hanson, Eliot W. Hitchcock, and Morris Jones.
Four books: W. O. Clough, Hist. of the Univ. of Wyoming; Ruth Hudson, Here is Wyoming; T. A. Larson, Hist. of Wyoming; and R. E. McWhinnie, Those Good Years at Wyoming U.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 5.43 acres

Quadrangle name Laramie, Wyoming

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

| | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|---|---|
| A | <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>16</u> <u>10</u> | <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>13</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>10</u> | B | <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>13</u> <u>10</u> | <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>13</u> <u>2</u> <u>19</u> <u>15</u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| C | <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>14</u> <u>10</u> | <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>13</u> <u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> | D | <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>18</u> <u>10</u> | <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>13</u> <u>4</u> <u>12</u> <u>10</u> |
| E | <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> | <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>13</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>10</u> | F | <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>10</u> | <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>13</u> <u>3</u> <u>17</u> <u>10</u> |
| G | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | H | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Addendum

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

11. Form Prepared By

T. A. Larson, Professor Emeritus of History, University of Wyoming member, University name/title of Wyoming Centennial; ES and SBW-SHPO.

organization Planning Commission date August 29, 1985

street & number 810 Clark Street telephone 745-3557

city or town Laramie state Wyoming

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Robert A. Bush

title Director and State Historic Preservation Officer date March 13, 1986

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

William B. Bushong date 7/11/86
for Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 3/26/86
date entered

Continuation sheet Old Main Item number 7 Page 1

Two of the blocks, 157 and 158, were a gift from the City, while the other two blocks, 181 and 182, were a purchase (\$400) from the Union Pacific Railway Company. The City's gift originally had been given to the City by the Railway Company in 1884 for park purposes, a specification which the company waived in 1886.

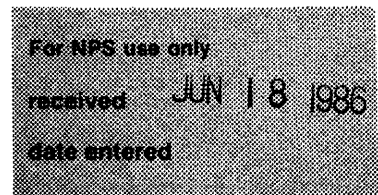
Old Main stands near the southwest corner of the University of Wyoming campus, 300 feet north of Iverson Avenue and 360 feet east of Ninth Street. No buildings stand between the two streets and Old Main, which is surrounded by beautiful lawns, flower gardens, shrubs and trees. Nor is it likely that there will be intrusions because the State Legislature in 1977 passed a law restricting the area to park or recreational purposes and forbidding construction of any structure without the approval of the Legislature.

Old Main is 168' wide and 63' high. The building is basically a rectangular block with recessed and advanced planes that help to give the facade an interesting variety of surfaces. The plan of the building, perhaps an imitation of Italian Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio, consists of a square central block with rectangular hyphens attached to either side of the north and south side of the central block. A rectangular wing or block is attached to the north and south side of each hyphen. In the traditional Palladian sense, the wings of a structure are completely separate for the central block, yet, Architect Hale decided to connect the hyphens and wings to Old Main's central block which then created a bilaterally symmetrical building. The original interior plan of the building is still reflected in its outward appearance. The stepped intersecting arches above the filled-in exterior doors indicate that stairwells were originally located at the facade's two secondary entrances. When the interior was modified in 1949, additional floors were added as the location of the stairwells changed. Now one centrally located staircase provides access to the upper four floors. The interior plan consists of a double-loaded corridor.

The structure's foundation as part of the high basement or piano noble consists of buff and reddish tinged, rock-faced sandstone laid in random courses. The sandstone was quarried a few miles east of Laramie. A beveled, smoothly dressed watertable separates the first and second stories. Sandstone for the watertable and other decorative features such as the sills was quarried in Rawlins, Wyoming.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Old Main

Item number 7

Page 2

For purposes of clarity the central pavilion, as the dominant feature on the facade, will be described first. The main entry to the building is through a three story central pavilion that projects beyond the main central block. Smoothly dressed sandstone blocks laid in regular courses support the rusticated, rock-faced stonework found above the main, non-original glass and metal double doors. Two three foot high, smoothly dressed, stepped sandstone blocks flank each side of the double doors. A non-original half-round window tops a stone panel which has the words "Old Main" inscribed on the panel. Two short granite columns with carved stone composite capitals on either side of the stone panel act as support for the round arch found directly above. A sandstone round arch with a keystone and radiating voussoirs ends with a decorative rocaille on either side of the arch. A circular stone medallion is located on either side of the arch; one medallion has the stylized letters, "A.D.", while the others has the date "1886" inscribed in stone. The words "Wyoming University", also carved into stone, are located one course above the medallions. As the central pavilion rises to the second and third stories, a large, non-original, metal window is flanked by paired, smoothly dressed pilasters with Corinthian capitals. Historical photographs indicate that a large Diocletian wooden window was once centered on the second and third story of the central pavilion. When an upper tower was removed from the roof in 1916 for safety purposes, the Diocletian window was changed to a large rectangular opening with a stuccoed plain pediment located above the window. The original design of the building featured a stepped stone base for a large octagonal wooden tower with a steeply pitched spire. Until 1916, the window tower very effectively focused attention on the central block and the entry to Old Main.

The main block, hyphens, and two attached wings consist of rock-faced native sandstone laid in courses. The size of the windows and entries are large, therefore the ratio between openings and wall surface is approximately equal. The original nineteenth century windows were double hung with stained glass transoms, but none of the original windows remain. Turquoise colored metal casement windows with a single hopper window in the bottom were placed in the original openings during the twentieth century. In 1949 the two long secondary entries with labeled round arches and key stone located in the hyphens were closed; a tan colored stucco material was used to plaster over each entry. Three stepped intersecting round arches with double casement windows with a lower hopper window located directly above the hyphen's entries add architectural variety to the building. The sills, and lintels for the first story windows and connected as a continuous band of smoothly dressed Rawlins sandstone. The sills and

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received JUN 18 1986
date entered

Continuation sheet

Old Main

Item number 7

Page 3

lintels for the second story windows are identical to the ones on the lower story. Second story windows are also metal, either single or double, casement windows with a single happer window on the bottom. Four Tudor arches punctuate the facade on the second story within the main block and wings. The arches act to unite windows in double or triple groups. Between the stone Tudor arch with label, a round stone medallion resembling pateri, provides a finishing touch to the window. Recessed circular details add further ornamentation underneath the Tudor arch.

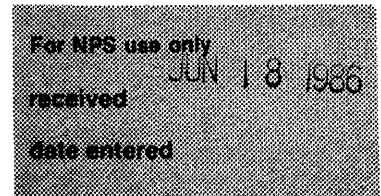
The half story is characterized by pinnacled gables and dormers. Two dormers with metal ornamentation, identical to ornamentation on the gables provides more details to the roofline. A prominent metal cornice with large brackets helps define and draw attention to the roofline. A mansard roof with brown asphalt shingles covers the main block while intersecting hips cover both hyphens and wings. Chimneys, although not original, dormers and gable fronts extension add to the moderately pitched roofline. Cresting originally topped the structure. The entire halfstory with roofline and gable ornaments is a prominent architectural feature of Old Main.

Contemporary newspaper stories and tradition indicate that the builders, Cook and Callahan of Laramie, took great pride in their work. When complete, four-story Old Main was the most impressive structure in the city rising above its principal rivals, the Union Pacific's roundhouse and rolling mill.

The Masonic Order laid the cornerstone September 27, 1886, placing therein a Bible, a Book of Common Prayer, ordinances and names of city officials, business cards, an oil painting by a local artist, autographs of school children, a history of the University, and a poem by a local poet. On the cornerstone appears the novel inscription Domi Habuit Unde Disceret, origin unknown. It is translated "He has at home (a place) where he may learn," which suggests that Wyoming youth need not go out of state for an education.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Old Main Item number 8 Page 1

Old Main was designed by architect Frederick Albert Hale, who was at the time a practicing architect in Denver, Colorado. Mr. Hale was born in New York and educated at Rochester and Cornell. While in Denver Mr. Hale's main focus was designing houses in and around Denver. He is credited with designing a hospital, a courthouse, a baseball park, a power station, dormitories for the University of Colorado, two banks, three public schools, eight churches, and eight commercial blocks. Research of Colorado records indicate he was more noted in Denver for his fine baritone voice than his architectural designs. He was active locally in a variety of theatrical productions, operas, and operettas in the 1880s. After seven years of practicing in Denver, Mr. Hale moved on to Salt Lake. There is no indication that he had any significant impact on the field of architectural design while living in Denver, but he later became one of Salt Lake's more prominent architects of the late 19th century. His partners Richard K. A. Kletting and Walter E. Ware are now more known for their commercial and institutional designs, while Hale is better remembered for his residential buildings. Hale became the preferred architect of Salt Lake's high society set and was likely the most prominent clubhouse architect in the city. Hale demonstrated a keen interest in the most current architectural styles of the day, and his ability to keep up with contemporary architectural developments made him a local developer of style. He was not directly involved in designing other notable public buildings for the territory or state of Wyoming. This may be because he moved out of the area, or it may be simply because he did not choose to bid on additional projects. Additionally research indicates that he was very busy designing at least 47 residences and no less than 30 commercial buildings in Salt Lake during the remainder of his career. So it is possible that Mr. Hale simply didn't have time to pursue projects in Wyoming.

Mr. Hale's desire to utilize current architectural styles dictated that his design for Old Main was fairly typical of collegiate designs popular throughout the country during this period. It has no match in the state. This is likely because of limited building projects of this scope and because it was the first collegiate facility in the territory. As such it stands alone in Wyoming as our only example, and it is therefore likely that its architectural significance stops at the state level.

Old Main is one of only a handful of public buildings appropriated and constructed during the territorial and early statehood period. Because such projects were few in number, each of the remaining structures from the period is architecturally and historically significant within the state. In fact, all except Old Main have already been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JUN 18 1986

date entered

Continuation sheet Old Main Item number 8 Page 2

The first of these which deserves mention is the Territorial Prison. This building was constructed early in the 1870s by the federal government. It is located within the same community as Old Main and is an eclectic structure demonstrating Romanesque and Second Empire elements. It too is a one-of-a-kind within the state. Upon Wyoming achieving statehood the prison was turned over to the State; and after only 30 years as a prison, it was turned into a barn for the University's school of agriculture and modified accordingly.

In anticipation of statehood, the Wyoming Territorial legislature of 1886 made provision for construction of three major public buildings: a state capitol in Cheyenne, a university in Laramie, and an insane asylum in Evanston. The City of Rawlins was given an appropriation for a penitentiary two years later. Completed in 1894, it is an outstanding example of Romanesque Revival architecture. Construction was begun on the Wyoming University (Old Main) in September of 1886. The French Renaissance State Capitol was begun the following Spring. The more modest two story asylum was constructed in 1888. This building burned in 1918. Nineteenth century attitudes toward the mentally ill being what they were, the facility was not frequently talked about or described. Records are limited, but photos indicate that compared to other public structures of the time it was not as grand an undertaking for the young state.

Another public building constructed during this period is a municipal Romanesque building constructed in 1893, the Rock Springs City Hall. It is interesting to note that Rock Springs and her sister city to the west, Green River, were the only substantial communities along the U.P. line through southern Wyoming which did not receive a state institution, and therefore did not get a state financed building project during this period. Green River did get a significant architectural plum, the Sweetwater Brewery. But this was a private enterprise and was not constructed until the turn of the century. The Union Pacific also constructed the Cheyenne depot in 1886, a lavish Romanesque Revival building which is also unique to the state.

During this spurt of public and private construction, other matters began to divert the time and money of Wyoming's government. A severe drought followed by a devastating winter in 1886-87 led to a dramatic decline in the state's major economic force, the cattle industry. Hard times and the accompanying withdrawal of huge sums of investment capital forced serious restrictions on the territory. In 1890 Wyoming was granted Statehood. The state's early years were marred by infighting between the struggling cattle barons and rebellious cowboys. The unresolved differences between the groups eventually led to the Johnson County

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received 3/26/86

date entered

Continuation sheet

Old Main

Item number 8

Page 4

On a cold, windy day, September 27, 1886, members of the Masonic Order laid the cornerstone of the University of Wyoming's first building. One year later 42 students varying in ages from 12 to 23 enrolled for instruction. Most of them were at the preparatory level because Wyoming Territory had no high schools.

It took imagination, vision and bravado to call the institution a university, but the 5,000 citizens of Laramie and the 45,000 other citizens of the Territory believed in progress. They were also opportunistic. They knew that because of the Morrill Act of 1862, the Land Grant Act of 1881 and subsequent federal legislation, the federal government would provide most of the money needed to maintain the school.

Yet the early years were very difficult. One of the original seven-member faculty, Justus F. Soule, later recalled that "During the first 25 years we never knew whether we should be there or not the next year." During those 25 years the federal government supplied between \$50,000 and \$75,000 per year while the state's contribution averaged only \$24,000.

A potentially disastrous blow came in 1892 when the people voted that an agricultural college should be located in Lander (elevation 5357) because Laramie's elevation (7165) was thought to be too high for useful agricultural experiments. The Legislature, however, never implemented that vote, and the U.S. Supreme Court in 1907 held that the 1892 vote was only advisory. Because most of the federal money was earmarked for agriculture, a separate agricultural college would have deprived the Laramie school of most of its financial support.

Statehood which came to the 62,000 people of Wyoming in 1890 was expected to bring prosperity and larger appropriations for the University. It failed to do so, and the number of students enrolled rose only from 37 in 1890 to 126 in 1900. Even with improved economic conditions thereafter there were only 193 students in 1910 and 433 in 1920. Meanwhile the institution's outstanding professor, Dr. Aven Nelson, who would be elected President of the Botanical Society of America in 1934, enjoyed a salary increase of only \$500, from 1887 to 1912, making his salary \$2000 after 25 years.

Wyoming citizens outside of Laramie were slow to recognize the University's merit and sent a majority of their children who were college-bound elsewhere. Not until the 1920's did this attitude change noticeably. Enrollment reached 1194 in 1930 before the Great Depression mandated

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 3/26/86

date entered

Continuation sheet

Old Main

Item number 8

Page 5

substantial retrenchment. President A.G. Crane in his Ten-Year Report, 1932, looked back ruefully on what he saw as "A remarkable period of growth, of advancement, of social change, of hysteria, of degeneration and of collapse." In agony he asked "Do the people of Wyoming want a University" His own salary was soon cut from \$12,000 to \$8,000.

Nevertheless the National Youth Administration program and other kinds of New Deal assistance maintained enrollments and even made some growth possible. By 1940 there were about 2,000 students. Then World War II reduced enrollment to 662 in 1943 just before men in uniform came for special military training programs. After World War II, except for a temporary downturn in the early 1950's, enrollments rose rapidly to over 10,000 in the 1980s.

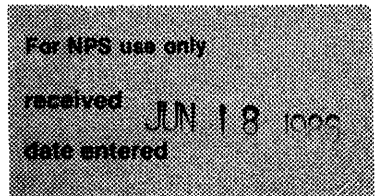
The University was better in its early years than its inadequate funding suggests. At least for good students, teaching was almost on a one-on-one basis. Of course, graduate training was almost non-existent. Yet the achievements of students who received A. B. and B.S. degrees warrant endorsement of Dr. Ruth Hudson's judgments (Here is Wyoming, The University and its State Background, Laramie, 1949, p.16): "Apparently the institution had something...which...held the loyalty and devotion of...a vital core of able faculty members.

Dr. Hudson, who served in the University's English Department, 1927-1960, has to be counted herself as a part of that vital core. Those faculty members and their supervisors gradually brought respect, recognition and accreditation. For example, the University was affiliated with the North Central Association in 1915, the American Association of American University Women in 1923, and was accredited by the American Association of Universities in 1924. In 1924 also the Law School won an "A" rating from the American Bar Association and the Association of Law Schools. National honorary societies admitted UW's Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi, and Phi Beta Kappa chapters in 1922, 1929 and 1940. In the man's world of pioneer Wyoming, faculty women made important contributions to progress, as should have been expected in a co-ed school in the first state to give women equal suffrage.

The 1887 campus of one building on 12 acres has grown to 50 major buildings on 780 acres in 1985. After World War II the state's greatly increased mineral production at enhanced values per unit made money relatively plentiful. Severance taxes and royalties from production on federal lands, added to other revenues, brought annual appropriations for the University

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Old Main Item number 8 Page 6

approaching \$100,000,000.

The University of Wyoming is unique in that Wyoming is the only state in the Union with one degree-granting institution of higher learning. There are seven two-year colleges but no other four-year schools. This plus the great increase in mineral wealth makes substantial funding possible, even though the population is only 470,000.

Being the only university in the state carries with it special obligations. Demands from all 23 counties for all kinds of service have to be considered, and Extended Credit programs, the Agricultural Extension Service, and Public Service in general do get much attention.

The University embraces seven colleges: Agriculture, Arts and Sciences, Education, Engineering, Commerce and Industry, Health Sciences and Law. Doctoral degrees are offered quite generally but not in Medicine and not, except in History, in the Social Sciences and Humanities.

In retrospect, the University of Wyoming in its early years looks like a good example of premature enterprise, but patience, endurance and perseverance have made the experiment worthwhile. The strong foundation augurs well for the future.

POSTSCRIPT: Many of the University's 50 major buildings are not eligible for the National Register because they are post-World War II. There are, however, besides (Old Main), others that appear to deserve serious consideration. The preparer of this Old Main nomination recommends that Wyoming's SHPO initiate a survey of all campus buildings, completion of which should lead to a campus district or multiple resource nomination.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received 3/26/88
date entered

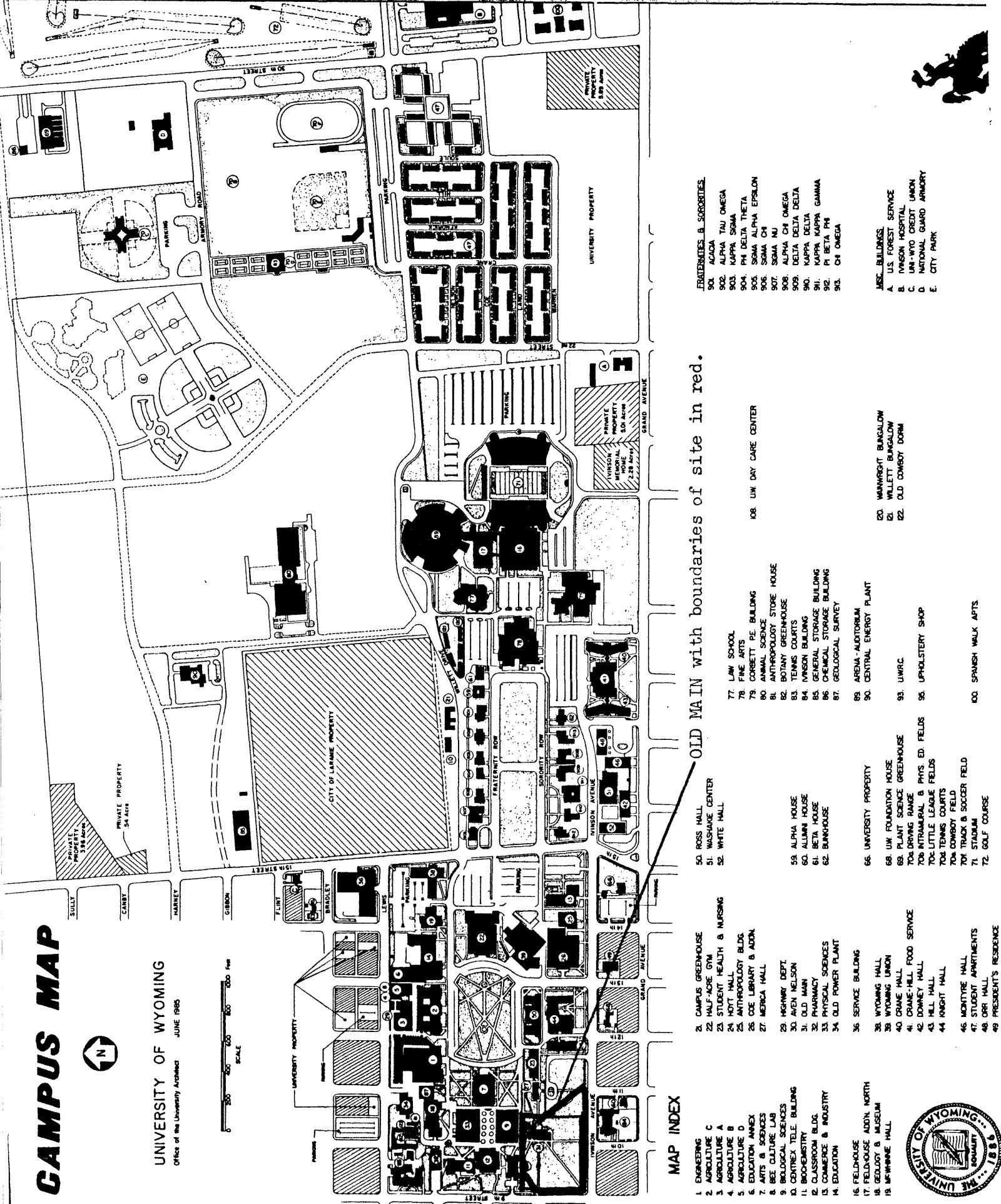
Continuation sheet Old Main Item number 10 (VBD) Page 1

The boundary for Old Main is defined on three sides by the original Wyoming University campus boundary. The physical definition is provided by curbs on Ninth Street on the west and Ivinson Avenue on the south. The eastern boundary is defined by an angled sidewalk heading northwest from Ivinson and joining another sidewalk at the back of the building. This sidewalk then extends north to another walk which provides the northern boundary. This walk extends straight west past Aven Nelson and then angles to the southwest to join the sidewalk along 19th Street. Though the use of sidewalks is somewhat arbitrary, in this case the boundary encompasses much of the original campus which is easily defined by these historic walkways. The large park-like area has historically served as a visually integral component for Old Main which still appears to stand by itself, inspite of the campus growth that has occured around it. In 1977 the Wyoming State Legislature passed a law restricting use of this area to recreational open space which should insure protection of the site as defined by these boundaries.

CAMPUS MAP

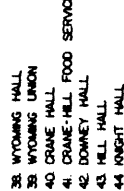


UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
Office of the University Architect
JUNE 1985

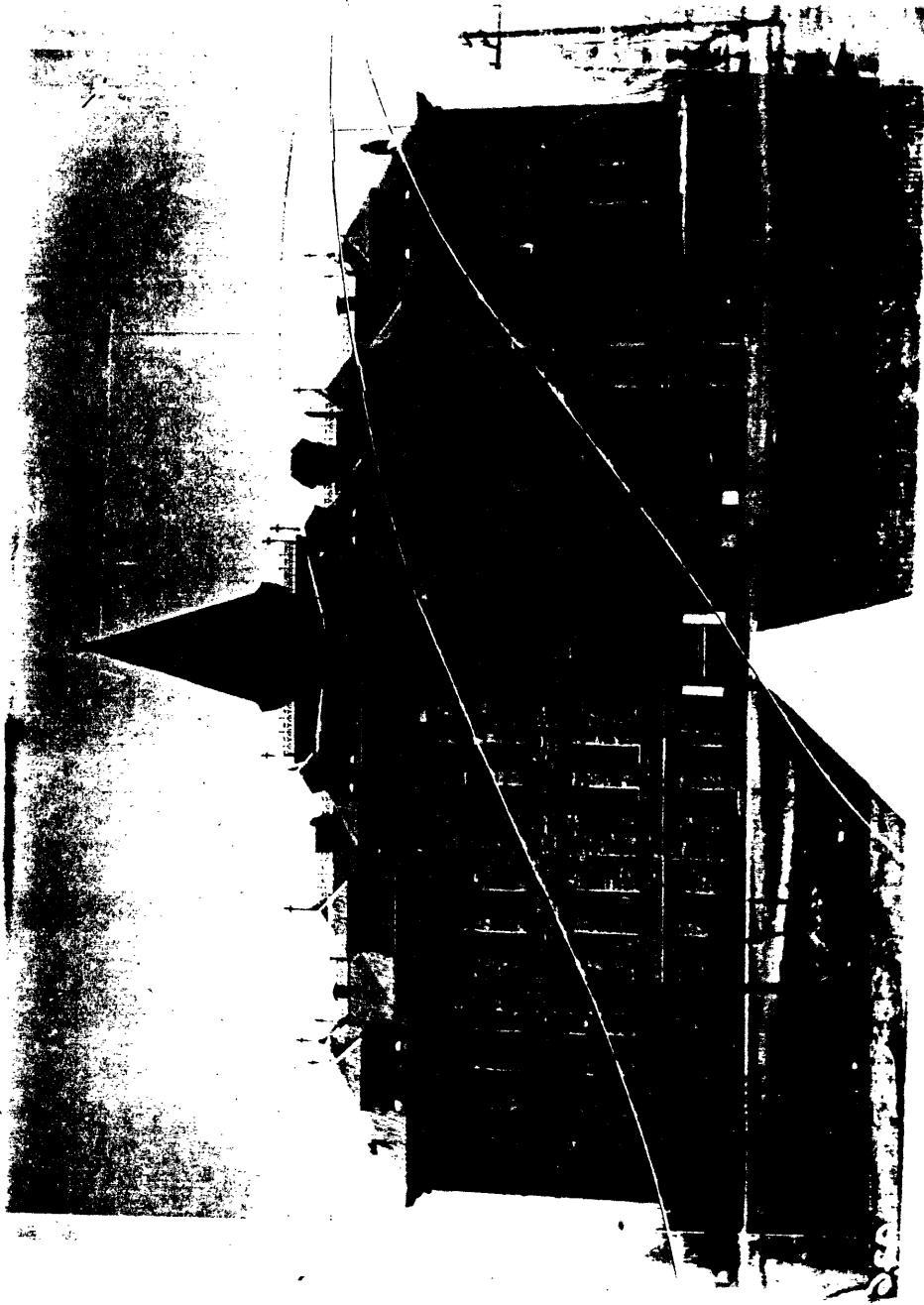


MAP INDEX

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. ENGINEERING | 77. LAW SCHOOL | 113. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 184. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| 2. AGRICULTURE C | 78. FINE ARTS | 114. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 185. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| 3. AGRICULTURE A | 79. CORBETT PE. BUILDING | 115. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 186. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| 4. AGRICULTURE B | 80. ANIMAL SCIENCE | 116. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 187. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| 5. AGRICULTURE D | 81. ANTHROPOLOGY STORE HOUSE | 117. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 188. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| 6. EDUCATION ANNEX | 82. BOTANY GREENHOUSE | 118. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 189. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| 7. ARTS & SCIENCES | 83. TENNIS COURTS | 119. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 190. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| 8. BEE CULTURE LAB | 84. WYOMING UNION | 120. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 191. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| 9. BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES | 85. GENERAL BUILDING | 121. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 192. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| 10. CENTER TELE. BUILDING | 86. CHEMICAL STORAGE BUILDING | 122. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 193. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| 11. BIO-CHEMISTRY | 87. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY | 123. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 194. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| 12. CLASSROOM BLDG. | 88. ARENA-AUDITORIUM | 124. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 195. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| 13. COMMERCE & INDUSTRY | 89. CENTRAL ENERGY PLANT | 125. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 196. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| 14. EDUCATION | 90. FOUNDATION HOUSE | 126. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 197. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| 16. FIELDHOUSE | 91. PLANT SCIENCE GREENHOUSE | 127. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 198. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| 17. FIELDHOUSE ADDN. NORTH | 92. DRIVING RANGE | 128. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 199. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| 18. GEOLOGY & MUSEUM | 93. UWRC | 129. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 200. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| 19. McWHANNE HALL | 94. CRANE-HILL FOOD SERVICE | 130. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 201. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| | 95. CRANE-HILL | 131. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 202. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| | 96. DONAYRE HALL | 132. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 203. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| | 97. HELL HALL | 133. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 204. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| | 98. KNIGHT HALL | 134. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 205. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| | 99. MONTRE HALL | 135. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 206. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| | 100. STUDENT APARTMENTS | 136. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 207. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| | 101. ORR HALL | 137. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 208. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| | 102. PRESIDENT'S RESIDENCE | 138. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 209. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
| | | 139. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY | 210. UNIVERSITY PROPERTY |
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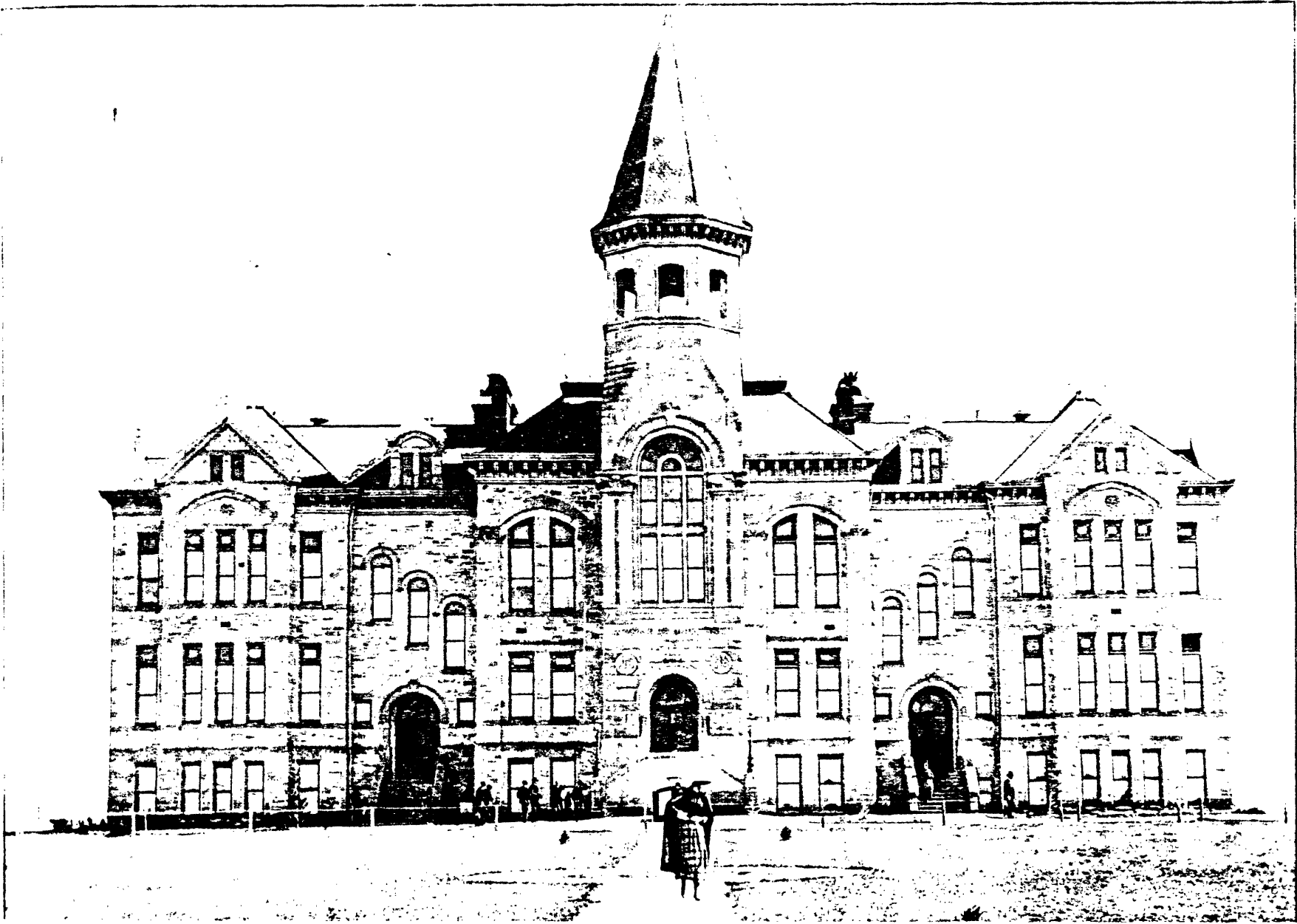


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Old Main in 1890s

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