NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88002001 Date Listed: 10/28/88

Main Hall	Brown	WI
Property Name	County	State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Boland 10/28/88

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Check Criterion Exception "A" because this is a religiously-owned property.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8/86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format (1331D)
(Approved 3/87)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED
SEP 16 1988
NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property

historic name MAIN HALL

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Third Street and College Avenue — N/A not for publication

city, town De Pere — N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Brown code 009 zip code 54115

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property contributing	noncontributing	
X private	X building(s)	1		buildings
public-local	district			sites
public-State	site			structures
public-Federal	structure			objects
	object	1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

x _____ 8/2/88

Signature of certifying official — Date

State Historic Preservation Officer- WI

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

_____ _____

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register. ___ See continuation sheet — Beth Boland — 10/28/88

___ determined eligible for the National Register. ___ See continuation sheet

___ determined not eligible for the National Register.

___ removed from the National Register.

___ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
EDUCATION/College	EDUCATION/College
EDUCATION/Library	
EDUCATION/Education-related housing	

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions
Romanesque	foundation Limestone
	walls Brick
	roof Slate
	other Limestone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Main Hall is located on a bluff overlooking the Fox River at the center of St. Norbert College, on the west side of the industrial city of De Pere. Surrounded by twenty-five acres of lawn and shade trees, and at the center of an eclectic collection of classical and contemporary college buildings, Main Hall is situated approximately 500 feet east of Third Street between Grant and Marsh Streets, facing a quadrangle which until recently was bisected by Second Street. A three-and-one-half story Romanesque Revival college building, Main Hall was built of masonry between 1901 and 1903.

The plan configuration is rectangular with an octagonal tower located on the northwest and southwest building corners. The main roof form is a truncated hip roof with two large, slightly projecting wall dormers and a central projecting entrance pavillion on the east facade, three wall dormers on the west, and one wall dormer on the north and south. The towers have polygonal roofs. A circular belvedere with doric columns and a bracketed conical roof is located at the center of the main roof deck, and an exterior chimney is located near the southeast building corner on the east facade.

The foundations are rock-faced ashlar limestone, the walls are red brick with a stretcher bond, and the roofing material is slate. The fenestration is formal on the principal elevations and functional on the east facade, and it consists of wooden double-hung, single-paned sash windows. Large round arch windows in the west wall dormers include two tiers of transom lights over double-hung, single-paned sash windows. The center wall dormer on the east facade has a group of three windows surmounted by a fan light. The flanking east wall dormers have two palladian windows each, as does the north wall dormer. The south wall dormer has two double-hung, single-paned sash windows surmounted by two blind arches within a larger blind arch, over which is an oculus. Some panes at various locations have been painted or boarded over.

The principal building entrance is located at the base of the projecting entrance pavillion on the west facade and is defined by a large round arch with rock-faced vousoirs resting on polished granite pillars. A secondary entrance is located near the northeast building corner on the east facade and is defined by a less prominent round arch with rock-faced vousoirs, an exaggerated keystone, and flanking sidelights. The west entrance has been fitted with a contemporary metal and glass door system, but the east entrance is original, with fan light and paneled doors. A metal exterior fire escape is also located on the south facade below the wall dormer.

X See continuation sheet

Decorative polychromatic features include limestone sill and lintel belt courses, a bracketed wood cornice, and green sheet metal dormer coping with fleur de lis finials. Carved stone spandrels between the second and third floor of the west facade, projecting brick piers supporting the wall dormers, recessed brick spandrels on the towers and outside chimney, and statuary niches in the central wall dormers on the west and east facades are also incorporated in the design. "ST. NORBERT COLLEGE" is inscribed over the principal entrance, and crosses are located there and on the belvedere roof.

The interior follows a T-shaped hall plan with the principal staircase located in the northwest corner of the building, across from the secondary entrance. The rooms were originally designed to serve all college functions, including dining room, library, classrooms, dormitory, and auditorium. The functions were organized by floor, with the dining and recreation rooms in the basement, class rooms and library on the first floor, dormitory on the second, and auditorium on the third. Most were finished with wainscotting and pressed tin ceilings. Most of the interior of Main Hall has been covered over or removed in favor of contemporary paneling, droped ceilings and linoleum floor covering installed when the building was converted to offices. The balustered main stair case remains largely undisturbed with the wainscotting and tin ceiling still visible, and much of the barrel vault ceiling of the third floor auditorium is extant above contemporary ceiling tiles.

While the integrity of the interior finishing has been compromised, the exterior architectural integrity is impaired by only the contemporary door system.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: ____nationally ____statewide X locally

Applicable National Register Criteria X A ____B X C ____D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ____A ____B ____C ____D ____E ____F ____G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Education	1901-1938 (1)	1901 (2)
Architecture		1903 (3)

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Reynolds, W.C., Architect (3)

State signficance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Main Hall is nominated to the National Register for its local significance under criterion A and C. Constructed by the Belgian Order of Norbertine Fathers, Main Hall is historically significant for its association with the growth and development of private colleges in Wisconsin. It also embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Romanesque Revival period of construction and is reflective of a period of significant growth and achievement in St. Norbert College and De Pere.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1893 at the request of the Green Bay Diocese, three Norbertine fathers came from Holland to reunite the Old Catholic parishes of Door, Kewaunee and Brown Counties with the diocese. Old Catholic parishes had been formed by renigade priest Joseph Valitte in the large Belgian colony that stretched from Green Bay to Sturgeon Bay. By 1898 all the parishes had rejoined the church, and the Norbertines continued their ministry to the Belgian colony by taking charge of St. Joseph's parish in De Pere.

Incorporated as a city in 1883, De Pere had 3,625 residents in 1890 with an established Belgian community numbering nearly 10% of the 4,523 population in 1905 (4). With its more limited waterpower potential, De Pere lagged behind other cities on the Fox River and experienced little significant industrial development until Kimberly-Clark Corporation constructed a two-machine mill there in 1891 (5).

X See continuation sheet

Settling in De Pere during this period of growth, the Norbertines were the third Catholic Order to be established in Wisconsin, following the Jesuits in 1855 and the Capuchins in 1857. Beginning with the 1899 St. Norbert College at De Pere, the Order pursued an educational mission that included the 1925 Camp Tivoli for Boys at Cecil, the 1929 Novitiate at Madison, the 1941 Norbertine High School at Green Bay, and the 1959 St. Norbert High School at De Pere (6).

EDUCATION

The development of Catholic colleges in Wisconsin falls into two broad catagories: those begun to train sisters as teachers and nurses for other Catholic institutions, and those established for men training for the priesthood or professional careers. Milwaukee's Alverno College, for example, was founded in 1887 by the Sisters of St. Francis to prepare members of their order for careers in teaching, music, and nursing. Marquette University, on the other hand, was specifically chartered as a liberal arts college in 1881 and became a university in 1907 when it affiliated with Milwaukee Medical College. The other 19th century Catholic colleges still extant are Mount Mary College, opened in 1850; Viterbo College, organized in 1863; Silver Lake College, begun in 1869; and Edgewood College, started in 1871.

The overriding objective of these colleges was to specifically provide an education that would foster the Catholic faith which other institutions of higher education did not. Numerous private colleges had developed concurrently in Wisconsin, including Beloit College, organized in Beloit in 1846; Lakeland College, started in Franklin in 1862, and Concordia College, begun in Milwaukee in 1881. In addition to these were the University of Wisconsin at Madison, organized by the state legislature in 1848, and the state normal school system authorized in 1857 and including schools at Platteville, Oshkosh, Stevens Point, Eau Claire and elsewhere. As state funded institutions, the normal schools and university did not provide religious education, while the other private colleges were for the most part associated with protestant denominations promoting their own religious beliefs.

St. Norbert College was the only Catholic college in the Fox River Valley and served a local catholic community which was for many years one of the largest in the state. St. Norbert began in 1898 when the Norbertines held classes in the St. Joseph parish school for four boys memorizing Latin declensions. Dedicated the following year, the Latin school had twenty-two students preparing for the priesthood in 1900 and the growing community and diocesean support for a Catholic college. In 1901 Main Hall was begun, and shortly thereafter courses of a collegiate nature were offered. In order to serve the broader educational needs of the Green Bay Diocese, St. Norbert's curriculum was quickly expanded to include preparatory, liberal arts, and commercial programs along with its classical preparation for the priesthood. The commercial program distinguished St. Norbert's from other Catholic colleges in the state.

Completed in 1903, Main Hall was a self-contained college. The basement held the recreation and reading rooms, as well as the kitchen and dining area. The classrooms, study hall, and library were located on the first floor, with the dormitories on the second. On the third floor were student lockers and the auditorium. For nearly fifteen years all college activities were contained by Main Hall, with the exception of the athletic program which was served by a succession of small frame gymnasiums. Boyle Hall, constructed in 1917, was the first major campus expansion, followed by Van Dyke Gymnasium in 1930. All three were designed by W. C. Reynolds of Green Bay and largely constituted the St. Norbert College campus until the 1950's (7).

In 1912 St. Norbert College was one of nine Catholic colleges and academies in Wisconsin (8). In the 1934 St. Norbert College became an accredited liberal arts college with a student body of 300 and a staff of thirty-five. The college did not open to women until 1953 and is reputedly the only Norbertine college in America (9).

The focus of Catholic higher education in the Fox River Valley, and distinguished for its early business program, St. Norbert College has contributed to the broad pattern of local educational history. This significance is embodied in Main Hall, the original college building and the center of all college life to the present day.

ARCHITECTURE

Popular in Wisconsin from 1855 to 1885, Romanesque Revival recalled the round-arched medieval style that had preceeded the pointed-arch Gothic in Europe. Architects James Renwick and Richard Upjohn introduced the style in the eastern Univted States in the 1840s, although in Wisconsin and other German settled areas it may have been introduced by German immigrant architects. A monolithic style marked by the repetition of the rounded arch in windows, enterances, and corbel tables, it was most often executed in monochromatic brick or stone. Towers were often employed and may have been finished off with parapets or a pyramidal roof. Asymmetrical massing was achieved with towers of differing heights and roof shapes, but symmetrical compositions of the style were also common. Like the Gothic Revival, the Romanesque Revival was considered appropriate for ecclesiastical buildings, but it was also a popular style for commercial structures of the period

While constructed substantially after this style's period of popularity, Main Hall is nevertheless a significant example of the Romanesque Revival style. Its repetitive round arches, both blind and functional, help to outline a symmetrical composition reinforced by twin towers, the central belvedere, and the formal fenestration of the principal facade. A powerful mass of red brick, Main Hall is further distinguished by the polychromatic finish created by its slate roof,

limestone belt courses, and rock-faced stonework. Further distinguished by its impecible integrity, Main Hall is a fine example of the Romanesque Revival style imaginitively enriched by carved stone spandrels between the second and third floor, a bracketed cornice, and sheet metal fleur de lis on the gable ends.

The surrounding campus buildings are all built of red brick and stone, but are of more utilitarian design. Boyle Hall, constructed in 1917 is a typical early 20th century collegiate building with classical references limited to the pillared entry and rusticated foundations. Van Dyke Gymnasium, built in 1930, is a vernacular front gable flanked by the square, crenelated towers of a medieval fortress. The 1956 Sensenbrenner Hall is an even more severe dormitory building with split pediment entries and a limited number of other Colonial Revival references. Pennings Hall built in 1956, Conway Memorial Library built in 1960, and Sensenbrenner Memorial Union built in 1961, are all contemporary collegiate buildings of red brick and stone. No other exmples of Romanesque Revival design exist in De Pere.

(1) The period of significance begins with the construction date and continues to the 50-year threshold, during which time Main Hall was being prepared and then in use as a multi-purpose collegiate building.

(2) Pieters, Donald L. SNC Buildings: Some Pertinent Facts. P. 7.

(3) Ibid.

(4) Glaab, Charles and Larsen, Lawrence, Factories in the Valley. P. 201.

(5) _____. Four Men and A Machine. P. 12.

(6) Wyatt, Barbara. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin. Religion 3:9.

(7) Pieters, pp. 7-13.

(8) McKenny, Charles. Educational History of Wisconsin. P. 425.

(9) Rummel, Rev. Leo. History of the Catholic Church in Wisconsin. P. 215.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): X See continuation sheet

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

Primary location of additional data:
X State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
X Other
Specify repository:
St. Norbert College

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1 acre

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	1/6	4/1/5/1/2/0	4/9/2/1/5/9/0	B	1/6	4/1/5/1/8/0	4/9/2/1/5/8/0
C	1/6	4/1/5/1/7/0	4/9/2/1/5/0/0	D	1/6	4/1/5/1/1/0	4/9/2/1/5/1/0

___ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

X See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

X See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peter J. Adams
organization Peter J. Adams & Associates date June 1, 1988
street & number 537 East Wisconsin Avenue telephone 414/722-8936
city or town Neenah state Wisconsin zip code 54956

_____. St. Norbert College. Democrat Printing, 1903. De Pere, Wisconsin.

_____. Four Men and a Machine. Kimberly-Clark Corporation, 1947. Neenah, Wisconsin.

Glaab, Charles N. and Larsen, Lawrence H. Factories in the Valley. State Historical Society, 1969. Madison, Wisconsin.

McKenny, Charles. Educational History of Wisconsin. Delmont Company, 1912. Chicago, Illinois.

Pieters, Donald L. SNC Buildings: Some Pertinent Facts. St. Norbert College, 1980. De Pere, Wisconsin.

Rummel, Rev. Leo. History of the Catholic Church in Wisconsin. George Banta Company, 1976. Menasha, Wisconsin.

Stibili, Edward C. History of St. Norbert College. Undated.

Titus, William A. History of the Fox River Valley. S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1930. Chicago, Illinois.

Wyatt, Barbara et al. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin. State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986. Madison, Wisconsin.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked by the following UTM reference points: A 16/415120/4921590, B 16/415180/4921580, C 16/415170/4921500, and D 16/415110/4921510. The same area can be described as follows: beginning at a point approximately 400 feet southeast of the east line of Third Street and 300 feet southwest of the south line of Grant Street, then southeast 180 feet, then southwest 240 feet, then northwest 180 feet, and then northeast 240 feet to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes only that portion of the 25-acre campus that is within 60 feet of the approximately 120-by-60-foot building. No other principal or secondary college building or structure is included within the boundaries as described.

St. Norbert College
ATT: Jeffrey W. Kanzelberger
De Pere, Wisconsin 54115

Photographic Materials - Identification

Main Hall
De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin
Photos by Peter Adams, May 1988
Negatives at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Photo #1 of 9: View from the west.

Photo #2 of 9: View from the southwest.

Photo #3 of 9: View from southeast.

Photo #4 of 9: View from the north.

Photo #5 of 9: West entrance detail.

Photo #6 of 9: East entrance detail.

Photo #7 of 9: Interior, view from main stair landing of east entrance.

Photo #8 of 9: Interior, view of second floor hall showing stair detail.

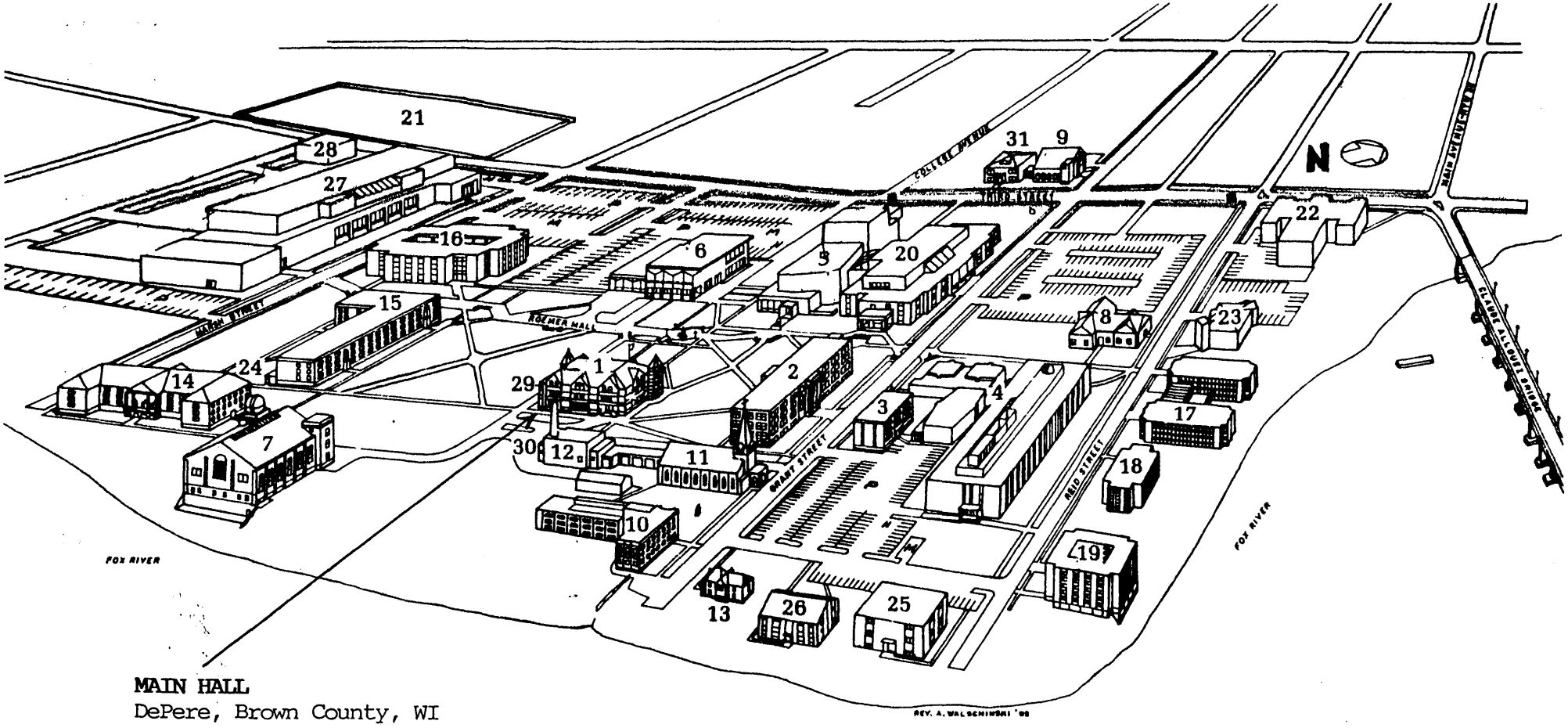
Photo #9 of 9: Inteior, third floor classroom showing detail of auditorium barrel vault.

ST. NORBERT COLLEGE CAMPUS

LEGEND

1 MAIN HALL
2 FRANCIS H. BOYLE HALL
3 ST. JOSEPH HALL
4 DR. JOHN R. MINAHAN SCIENCE HALL
5 ABBOT PENNINGS HALL OF FINE ARTS
6 FRANK J. AND MARGARET SENSENBRENNER MEMORIAL UNION
7 VAN DYKE HALL DEPARTMENT OF FACILITIES
8 CLEMENTINE DEVROY HALL
9 ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID
10 ST. JOSEPH PRIORY
11 OLD ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
12 HEATING PLANT
13 CHI-RHO COMMONS
14 REV. DENNIS M. BURKE HALL
15 FRANK J. SENSENBRENNER HALL
16 VICTOR MC CORMICK HALL
17 MADELAINE & LORRAINE HALL
18 GERTRUDE S. BERGSTROM HALL
19 MARY MINAHAN MC CORMICK HALL
20 TODD WEHR LIBRARY
21 INTRAMURAL FIELD
22-23 ABBOT PENNINGS HIGH SCHOOL
24 NURSERY SCHOOL
25 JOHN J. VANDER ZANDEN HALL
26 RIVERSIDE SOUTH APARTMENTS
27 SCHULDES SPORTS CENTER
28 PERSONNEL OFFICE
29 HEALTH CENTER
30 DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND SECURITY
31 INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

H HANDICAPPED PARKING
P PARKING
B BUS STOP
M MOTORCYCLE PARKING



MAIN HALL
DePere, Brown County, WI

Figure 1

Not to Scale