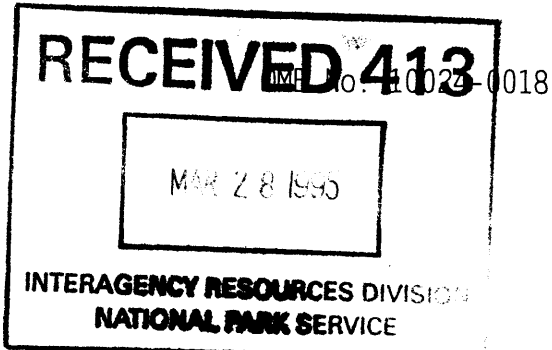


NPS Form 10-900
(January 1992)



United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Memorial Hall

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1511 Ellis Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Ashland N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Ashland code 003 zip code 54806

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeff Damer 3/10/95
 Signature of certifying official/Title 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Memorial Hall, Northland College Ashland, Wisconsin
Name of Property County and State

4. National Park Service Certification Entered in the National Register

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)
Signature of the Keeper: Edson H. Beall Date of Action: 4-27-95

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply) Category of Property (Check only one box) Number of Resources within Property (Do not include listed resources within the count)

		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
			Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
EDUCATION/education-related EDUCATION/education-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/Tudor Revival
foundation concrete
walls brick
roof asphalt
other stone
concrete

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Memorial Hall, Northland College
Name of Property

Ashland, Wisconsin
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the
criteria qualifying the property for the
National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance

1926-27¹

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Shefchik, Thomas, Duluth, Minn.²

¹Nathaniel B. Dexter, Northland College, A History. (Ashland, Wisconsin: Northland College), 1968, 141; Plans for Memorial Hall, Thomas J. Shefchik, owned by Northland College, dated 1926.

²Ibid.

Memorial Hall, Northland College
Name of Property

Ashland, Wisconsin
County and State

Previous Documentation on File (NPS):
 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:
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State Agency
 Federal Agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>1/5</u>	<u>6/6/2/9/3/0</u>	<u>5/1/6/0/4/5/0</u>	3	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	4	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

___ see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By _____

name/title Rebecca Sample Bernstein, Consultant
organization for Northland College date March 15, 1994
street & number 309 Norris Court telephone (608) 251-4615
city or town Madison state WI zip code 53703

Additional Documentation _____

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Memorial Hall, Northland College
Name of Property

Ashland, Wisconsin
County and State

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Northland College (c/o Harvey Haukaas)
street & number 1411 Ellis Avenue telephone (715) 682-1231
city or town Ashland state WI zip code 54806

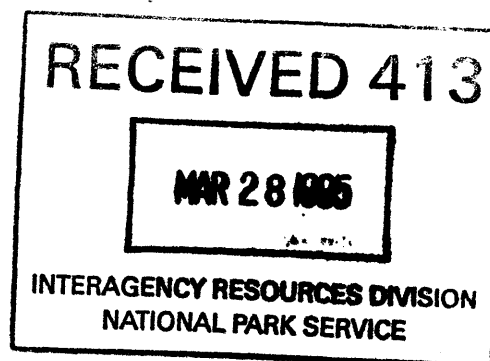
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section 7 Page 1 Memorial Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., Wisconsin



7. Architectural Description

Memorial Hall, constructed in 1926-27,³ sits in a grassy lawn on the southeast edge of the Northland College campus in Ashland, Wisconsin. The lawn stretches to the north before being abbreviated by a circular driveway. To the east, the lawn extends some 100 feet to State Highway 13. A parking lot abuts the building to the south, and a small grassy patch separates Memorial Hall from its neighboring building to the west. The building is surrounded by small trees.

The two-and-a-half story Tudor Revival Memorial Hall has an L-shaped plan, with projections to the west, south, and east. A bird's-eye view of the roof shows the building consisting of a long wing identified herein as the west wing, and a short wing, known as the north wing. The juncture of the two wings is filled with a two-story gable-roofed entrance bay. Shed-roof dormers project from the steeply pitched multi-gable roofs which are clad in asphalt. The red brick walls, laid in a running bond with every eighth course laid in flemish bond, are covered in ivy. The concrete foundation is not exposed. Windows are set in simple frames with original six-over-six double-hung wood sash. Exceptions in design and originality are noted below. Original doors had fifteen glass lights. All but one of the doors have been replaced with modern single pane glass doors.

This imposing dormitory carries few applied details, deriving most of its character from its size and materials. Tudor Revival style details appear in stone work around windows on the main elevations and in the concrete coping edging all the gable ends.

The main facades are the north and west elevations of the west and north wings, respectively. The main expanse of the north elevation of the west wing is three-bays-wide. Each bay contains the same elements: the first story has a single segmental arch window opening that has a stone lintel and sides, evocative of the Tudor Revival style; the second story features a triple window group having three narrow four-over-four double hung wood sash windows in unornamented frames; and a shed roof dormer in the attic story above features one six-over-six double hung wood sash window. The north elevation of the west wing features a two-bay-wide gable-roofed pavilion on the west side. The pavilion features two pairs of six-

³Dexter, 140-143.

⁴The western short wing is actually two projecting pavilions rather than a separate wing.

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Section 7 Page 2 Memorial Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., Wisconsin

over-six double hung wood sash windows on the first and second stories, and a six-over-six window flanked by two narrower four-over-four windows in the third (attic) story. The west elevation of the north wing features one bay of the same type between the angled entrance bay and a projecting window bay. The gable-roofed angled entrance bay features a replacement glass door⁵ in a frame matching the first story window frames, a trio of four-over-four windows on the second story, and a pair of six-over-six windows on the third story. The projecting window bay features a six-over-six window in a simple frame on each of the three stories. Four-over-four double-hung wood sash windows are found on the first and second stories on the sides of the projecting window bay.

The north elevation of the north wing is three-bays-wide, with a two-story, centered, projecting entrance and stairway bay having a gable roof edged by a shallow parapet with stone coping. The door has been replaced with a modern glass door. The windows of this elevation are all original six-over-six, double-hung wood sash.

The asymmetrical east elevation of the north wing (and of the whole building) is six-bays-wide. Three shed-roofed dormers project from the roof between two projecting gable-roofed three-story tall one-bay-wide bay windows. The first and second story windows between the projecting bays are pairs of original six-over-six, double hung wood sash. The windows of the projecting bays and the dormers are original six-over-six, double hung wood sash. Small horizontal windows are placed in the partially exposed basement story.

The eleven-bay-wide south-facing rear elevation of the building can be described as being composed of four parts: the three-bay-wide south-facing gable end of the north wing, which forms a pavilion at the east (right) end of the elevation; a matching three-bay-wide pavilion at the west (left) end of the elevation; the four-bay-wide center portion of the elevation (the long south-facing side of the west wing); and the one-bay-wide south-facing side of a pavilion that is attached to the west elevation of the building and which has an original door in its first story and a six-over-six double hung window in its second story - for a total of eleven bays. All of these parts have their matching equivalents on the north-facing elevation of the wing and the fenestration patterns are also similar.

The west-facing side elevation of the west wing is dominated by a two-and-a-half story gable-roofed ell that contains a stairway. This ell has no openings on its west elevation except for the single window in the attic story.

Alterations to the exterior are minimal and consist of the new windows and doors

⁵The original fifteen-light door was flanked by sidelights.

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Section 7 Page 3 Memorial Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., Wisconsin

discussed above, storm windows, gutters and downspouts, and addition of some HVAC and plumbing equipment at the west end of the south elevation. Most of the alterations are reversible. The new windows and doors are incompatible with the historic character of the building, but are proportionally few enough that they do not affect the architectural significance of the building.

The interior of Memorial Hall has exceptionally high integrity. The interior plan follows the overall plan of the dormitory with halls forming the "L" shape. The main entrance, from the interior corner of the L, accesses a lobby set diagonally to the two legs of the L. Because of its unique placement, the lobby has an elongated octagon shape (see plan). To the right, the lobby leads to a resident lounge. Three large windows provide light to the room. The focus of the room is a large fireplace framed by a Tudor Revival lancet arch in a rectangle. A biomorphic pattern fills the spandrel created by the arch and the rectangle.

Dorm rooms are spaced evenly along the halls on the first, second and third floors. The floors are accessed by stairwells at the north and south ends of the north wing and the west end of the west wing. Bathrooms are located next to (west of) the south stairwell on each floor.

The basement plan does not follow the L-shaped hall plan of the upper floors. Instead, it is comprised of a dining hall, lounge, laundry, and storage and utility rooms flowing from one into the other. It has a finished concrete floor and structural pillars throughout the bigger rooms.

Interior doors, floors, trim, hardware and most wall materials and windows are original. The walls of the dormitory lounge were paneled in pine at an unknown date. Window replacements are as discussed above.

Doors to individual dorm rooms are pine with a top light of frosted glass above a single vertical panel. Doors from the lobby to the halls are paired with each door having eight lights. The doors are housed in oak door frames. Floors, including stairs, throughout the building are aggregate pressed in concrete. The floors wrap approximately six inches up the wall, creating baseboards. Oak trim is found as cornices in the lobby, around window frames and on the tops of newell posts.

Alterations to the interior include modernization of electrical and plumbing equipment which have been done in an unobtrusive manner, and the doors and windows listed above. Floor plan, building materials, and room usages remain unaltered. The minimal alterations do not affect the architectural significance of the dormitory.

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Section 8 Page 1 Memorial Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., Wisconsin

8. Statement of Significance

Summary

This property is locally significant under Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places. It is an excellent example of an early twentieth century women's dormitory in the Tudor Revival style and is the only building of this style on the Northland College campus. Constructed in 1926, Memorial Hall is the oldest building on the Northland College campus retaining its historic integrity. It is also an example of the work of architect Thomas Shefchik and an excellent representation of his ability to design in Period Revival styles. The period of significance dates from the beginning of construction in 1926 to the completion of the building in 1927.

Historic Background: Ashland

Northland College is located in the Northern Wisconsin community of Ashland. Ashland is nestled along the southern shore of Lake Superior in the Chequamegon Region. The city is now the region's industrial center, but developed considerably later than settlements on Madeline Island located in the Apostle Islands just to the north, home to early fur-trading posts and missionary efforts. Historians of Northland College have underscored the importance of the Madeline Island's missions, and later tourism, on the development of the College.⁶

Native American oral tradition places their first habitation in the region to the 1400s, although earlier indigenous peoples may well have populated the Apostle Islands. Ojibwa migrated from the Gulf of St. Lawrence, via the Sault Ste. Marie area. After a settlement on the tip of Chequamegon Point, they established a defensible settlement in the middle of Madeline Island. Their success proved to be their downfall, for the Island evidently could not support the growing population and apparently the Ojibwa left Madeline Island in about 1610. Archeological studies and written resources, however, place the first Native American settlement on the Island in the late 1600s - contemporary to the advent of the fur trade in the region.

⁶Dexter, 1-41.

⁷Cooper, David, editor. By Fire, Storm, and Ice: Underwater Archeological Investigations in the Apostle Islands. (Underwater Archeology Program, Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin: Madison, Wisconsin.) 1991, 8- 9; Hamilton Nelson Ross, La Pointe - Village Outpost. (St. Paul, Minnesota: North Central Publishing Company) 1960, 13.

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Section 8 Page 2 Memorial Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., Wisconsin

Throughout the mid-1600s, French explorers, traders, and Jesuits were exploring and documenting Lake Superior and its environs. The whole region was at times known both as Chequamegon (as it still is today) and as La Pointe. In the late 1680s, traders experiencing similar conflicts with the Sioux as the Ojibwa had in the 1400s, moved their posts from the mainland to the end of Chequamegon Point, naming it La Pointe. None-the-less, the settlement withstood numerous attacks. When Pierre Le Sueur, appointed to command a corps of soldiers to protect a company of fur traders, reached the region in 1693, he decided to locate his fort across the water on Madeline Island instead of at the existing settlement.⁸ Le Sueur's fort was established at, and the traders' settlement moved to, the southwestern tip of the island. The name La Pointe was reused for this new establishment.

For five years, La Pointe was the fulcrum of fur trading in the region.¹⁰ An overly successful system of fur trading flooded the fur market in both Canada and France. After prices dropped and all trading licenses were canceled, Le Sueur and his staff left the Island in 1698. After two decades, the French wanted to regain their prominence in the fur trade - having been threatened by the success of the Hudson's Bay Company further north - and re-established their post on Madeline Island in 1718.¹¹ The fort enjoyed forty years of significant trading activity. This age of the French fur trade on Madeline Island ended in the late 1750s when New France (now Canada) needed their commissioned soldiers to fight the English in the East and could no longer man the fort. Remains of the fort were destroyed by the English in 1765.¹² Not until 1791 was there again a European fur-trading presence at Madeline Island. In 1818, after a variety of political territorial rearrangements, John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company acquired the fur trade post on Madeline Island.¹³

⁸Ross, 34-40.

⁹Ibid., 40-43

¹⁰Ibid., 45.

¹¹Ibid., 46.

¹²Ibid., 48-61.

¹³Ibid., 65-72.

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Section 8 Page 3 Memorial Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., Wisconsin

About 1820, the Warren brothers, Lyman and Truman, came to La Pointe as traders with the American Fur Company and subsequently married daughters of Michel Cadotte. The well-educated Warrens, with growing families, soon sought a school teacher for their children and the children of the community, and a missionary for the Native Americans. This resulted in the arrival of teacher Frederick Ayer, and missionary Reverend Sherman Hall to the small village. In 1834, Hall effected the construction of a mission building south of Middle Fort. In July, 1835, Catholic priest Father Frederic Baraga arrived in La Pointe dedicating St. Joseph's Chapel in the next month.¹⁴

Over the next decades the growth of the communities of Superior, Duluth, Bayfield, Washburn and Ashland intruded on La Pointe's position as a trading center. The 1854 treaty between the Ojibwa and the United States Government established reservations for the Native Americans of the region. Protestant Indians moved to Odanah, just east of townsite of Ashland.¹⁵

The first whites settled in Ashland in the same year as the establishment of the region's Indian reservations. The boundaries of the Odanah reservation had been drawn to the east of the Ashland townsite rather than west at the foot of the Bayfield peninsula specifically to allow Euro-Americans access to the south shore of Lake Superior. From 1854 to the early 1870s, Ashland grew irregularly. The Civil War¹⁶ caused most of the settlers great hardships and all but one family left the area.

La Pointe had been home to the seat of La Pointe County (renamed Bayfield County in 1866) from 1845 to 1860. When Ashland County was created in 1860, with the Apostle Islands as part of it, county administration was moved to Ashland. After a population loss in Ashland, La Pointe was again the county seat from 1863 to 1871. After 1871, Ashland's predominance won it permanent status as the home of county government.¹⁷

¹⁴Ibid., 73-79.

¹⁵Ibid., 108-152.

¹⁶Guy Burnham, The Lake Superior Country in History and in Story. (Ann Arbor, Michigan: Brower Books) 1975. Reprint of 1929 edition, 246.

¹⁷Ross, 123-5; John). Holzhueter, Madeline Island and the Chequamegon Region. The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 50.

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Section 8 Page 4 Memorial Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., Wisconsin

Population grew in the 1870s, due largely to the growth of post war lumbering and stone quarrying, which had begun in 1870. In 1872, 200 buildings were built between March and November. A local newspaper was established the same year, and the town was able to boast ten stores, two breweries, two schools, saloons, hotels, a church and a sawmill. Growth was bolstered by the arrival of the Wisconsin Central in 1873. The track went only as far south as Penokee Gap, riders had to travel by foot or wagon from Marshfield or Park Falls, which had been reached by rail from the south. The Wisconsin Central's line was linked with the south in 1877. In the same year, the railroad built the Hotel Chequamegon, and the cornerstone was laid for the County Courthouse.¹⁸

The small city, along with the rest of Northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, experienced a two-year boom beginning in 1885 upon the discovery of iron ore in the Gogebic Range. Ashland's situation and existing facilities made it the port of choice for shipping ore to the East. The Northern Pacific & Omaha Railroad had reached Ashland in 1884, and the Milwaukee, Lake Shore, & Western Railroad (later known as the C & NW) in 1885. The latter line immediately built an ore dock to augment shipping. Two years later the Wisconsin Central finished their ore dock. By 1887, at the same time the city was incorporated by the Wisconsin State Legislature, the boom of the iron years was over, and Ashland was left to develop at a slower pace.¹⁹

In the following years, Ashland's economy was fueled by lumbering and sawmills, and by the dozen brownstone quarries on the lake shore of the peninsula and the Apostle Islands. By the early 1900s, the region was primarily dependant on local farming and the more stable remains of the iron industry. It was during this tentative period that²⁰ local citizens began contemplating a private higher education institution.

Northland College Historic Background

The late nineteenth century residents of the Chequamegon Region and the rest of the North Woods, including the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and northern Minnesota, had no "high grade high schools"²¹ for its young adults. A solution was proposed by wealthy

¹⁸Burnham., 252-256.

¹⁹Ibid., 260-262.

²⁰Ibid., 262-264.

²¹Dexter, 23.

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Section 8 Page 5 Memorial Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., Wisconsin

Landowner and promoter of St. Anthony Park (in St. Paul, Minnesota), Charles H. Pratt, who first proposed the settlement of a new colony, focused around a Christian Academy, to be located in the White River Valley of Northern Wisconsin (now known as Bibon Swamp). Although the school would eventually be located in Ashland, Pratt's early letters lay out some basic principles of Northland College.²²

Pratt wanted the students of the school to have practical training which could fully sustain them as adults, or serve to augment their future farm incomes. His 1891 suggestions for the "practical side" of the curriculum included:

- a. Wood-working. Our saw-mill would be here; with its power usable for any wood industries.
- b. Clay products. We have what appears to be the only yet discovered clay for pressed brick and terra cotta in N. Wisc.
- c. Forestry' & perhaps Mining, - both these subjects being of interest to North Wisc.
- d. Agricultural.
- e. Commercial. No commercial school at Ashland.
- f. By all means, plan also for a Summer School as a leading feature. All of these, or any of these departments, would draw pupils, and would add to the self-support of the school."²³

Pratt promoted his ideas to Rev. George W. Nelson, Congregational General Missionary for Northern Wisconsin. They soon convened representatives of all the larger churches of Northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan; Head of Beloit Academy Professor Burr; President E. H. Merrell of Ripon Academy; Wisconsin Congregational college philanthropists O. H. Ingram, Elijah Swift, and J. L. Townsend; and Ashland businessmen L. C. Wilmarth and Mr. Shores.²⁴ At the end of a conference held on August 5, 1891 at Pratt's proposed site, at the establishment of a Northern Wisconsin Christian Academy, rather than a new colony, was set as the goal of the organizers.²⁵

²²Ibid., 24.

²³Ibid., 24.

²⁴Ibid., 26-29.

²⁵Ibid., 24-29.

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Section 8 Page 6 Memorial Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., Wisconsin

Reverend E.P. Wheeler, son of Protestant missionaries at La Pointe, became involved with the founding of the new school as part of the nominating committee for the Incorporation Committee. As an Ashland promotor, and the man who established the Odanah Indian Reservation boundaries east of the Ashland townsite, he worked to persuade the residents and businessmen of Ashland to lobby for locating the new school in Ashland. Financial contributions from Ashland helped persuade the incorporators to confirm Ashland as the final site.²⁶

After considering a number of sites in Ashland, an undeveloped area along a ravine on Ellis Avenue, on the south end of the city, was chosen in 1891. The Incorporation Committee had solicited information from other academies and colleges regarding types of schools, administration, location, housing and building types. Consequently, the first building of the new academy was to be a red brick and brownstone building, patterned after, but slightly larger than, Beloit Academy (College)'s Scoville Hall.²⁷ In addition, a pattern of housing female students in "cottages" was supported, and plans for wood frame cottages with a kitchen and dining room were also drawn. Male students were to be housed with local families.²⁸

North Wisconsin Academy, as it was then called, had a troubled first few years. The panic of 1893 restricted the early growth spurt of the academy - changes in architectural styles lowered demand for local brownstone, causing Ashland donors not only to fall short in their expected donations to the academy, but to be less forgiving in letting outstanding construction debts lie. Consequently, the first building of the new academy was not completed until 1894. In addition, the hard times and personal reasons caused the entire staff to resign at the end of the first year. Success was seen in 1897 when the first class graduated.²⁹

²⁶Ibid., 28-30.

²⁷Scoville had been built in 1889 to plans by architects Patton and Fisher, for \$27,000, and was destroyed 1973.

²⁸Dexter, 35-38.

²⁹Ibid., 49-70.

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Section 8 Page 7 Memorial Hall, Ashland, Ashland Co., Wisconsin

The original purpose of the new school was to provide the upper grades of high school to area students, as was typical of such private academies throughout the state. Academies had been founded in Wisconsin before statehood, and included such schools as Beloit Academy (Beloit College),³⁰ Prairieville Academy (Carroll College) and Ripon Academy (Ripon College).

Like its predecessors, North Wisconsin Academy was interested in providing "something more than an academy".³¹ Casual references to the school as a college began soon after its founding, and were pursued formally by the Board of Trustees at their June 13, 1906 meeting. By September of that year, the by-laws had been reworded to include a college course, and the Board of North Wisconsin Academy became the Board of Trustees of Northland College.³² As more public high schools were developed in the region, proportionally fewer students attended the academy course, and more attended the college course.³³

Today, as historically, Northland College emphasizes practical education in addition to more classical academic fields. From its inception, the school promoted self-sufficiency - both for funding a student's education and for life after college. Practical training has made the college an attractive choice for students, and, perhaps as importantly, has helped see the school through some difficult financial times. The college now offers a broad range of study, including environmental studies and an outdoor education program. Approximately 750 students are currently enrolled, of which about 30% are from Wisconsin, 30% from the East Coast, 30% from Pennsylvania and Illinois, and 10% from elsewhere in the States and other countries.

³⁰Wyatt, Vol.3, Education Theme, Public Secondary Education chapter, 3-1 - 3-3, Normal Schools and State Teachers Colleges, 4-1. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin does not address Private Colleges and the University of Wisconsin System, two other areas which will shed light on the history of private academies.

³¹Dexter, 45.

³²Ibid., 96.

³³Ibid., 119.

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Memorial Hall, Construction History

The cottage system of housing female students at Northland College was abandoned in 1906 with the construction of the wood frame "girls dormitory," Dill Hall. Then the campus consisted of Wheeler Hall, the first building of the academy which housed laboratories, a printing plant, offices, classrooms, library, music rooms, gymnasium, and sewing room; Woods Hall, which housed a cement block plant, a broom factory, and male student's dorm rooms; and Dill Hall. At the time of Dill Hall's construction, consideration was given to building a brick dormitory, but frugality prevailed and, a frame building was erected instead.³⁴ Twenty years later, however, the dormitory was considered a fire hazard and a new brick "girls dormitory" was planned in 1925.³⁵ The Wisconsin and Illinois Women's Home Missionary Union took on the project of raising the necessary \$65,000 for the new dormitory. The dormitory would be called Memorial Hall, in honor of all the contributions given as memorials. Of the architects who submitted plans for the dormitory, Thomas Shefchik from Ashland, working in Duluth, was chosen.³⁶

Concerns about Dill Hall's condition were justified, for on April 11 of 1926, one month before construction contracts were to be let for the new dormitory, Dill Hall went up in flames.³⁷ Although no one was hurt, and a great deal of furniture was salvaged, the building was totally lost. The new dormitory's schedule was accelerated and four days later, the construction contract went to Charles Bloss of Ashland.³⁸ As the Ashland Daily Press reported on April 21, 1926 "It will be a brick structure, as nearly fire-proof as possible, so that the disaster³⁹ which destroyed Dill Hall, a frame structure, last week may be avoided.

With the recognition that the campus was soon going to include more buildings,

³⁴ Ibid., 86.

³⁵ Ibid., 137.

³⁶ Ibid., 140-143.

³⁷ Ashland Daily Press, 12 April, 1926.

³⁸ Ashland Daily Press, 15 April, 1926.

³⁹ Ashland Daily Press, 21 April, 1926.

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the landscape architects Clas, Shepherd and Clas of Milwaukee were hired to produce a campus plan. Consequently, the design of the field south of the original Wheeler Hall was modified to become a traditional campus quadrangle.⁴⁰ The new dormitory was the first building to define the new quadrangle and set the stage for future campus planning. Ground breaking for the new building began on April 30, 1926. The cornerstone was laid on June 15, and students moved in to the dormitory rooms in 1927.⁴¹

The building was planned with an unfinished basement, except for a laundry room in the south end. As excavation was underway, the decision was made to excavate a little deeper, and pour a concrete floor to accommodate a dining hall and a kitchen in the basement. Materials from the excavation of Dill Hall were used to construct a huge underground root cellar. The root cellar was put to use in late 1929 and into the 1930s to store local bumper crops and other student-procured produce. This large storage space alleviated some of the hardships of the early Depression years.⁴²

Memorial Hall Architect

Thomas Shefchik grew up near Sanborn, Wisconsin. His first architectural work was with Henry Wildhagen, an architect in Ashland. Wildhagen was a well-known architect in the Chequamegon area, having designed the Ashland County Courthouse, the Bayfield Carnegie Library and the LaPointe Town Hall. Shefchik began his own practice in 1917 with Clyde W. Kelly as a partner. In 1922, that partnership was dissolved, and by 1926, Shefchik was working in Duluth, Minnesota with offices at the 313 Glencoe Building. His office was at the same location in 1940. His son, Thomas J. Shefchik, Jr., joined the architectural practice in 1948. In addition to Memorial Hall and Wakefield Hall on the Northland College Campus, Shefchik designed the Duluth City Hall, Pure Air Sanitorium in Bayfield (1918-23), Northern National Bank, Ashland National Bank, Latimer School, the Ashland County Poor Farm, and other buildings in and near Ashland.⁴³

⁴⁰Dexter, 140.

⁴¹Ibid., 145.

⁴²Ibid., 144-152.

⁴³Ashland Daily Press, 29 May, 1926; Madeline Island Schools and Highlights of Island History (Madeline Island Historic Preservation Association, typed manuscript) 1992; Dexter, 140, 160; Wakefield Hall Plans, dated 1940; Biographical file of the Northeast Region Historical Center, University of Minnesota, Duluth.

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Architectural Significance

The "Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin" manual states:

The term "Period Revival" is often used to describe a wide range of past motifs and styles that architects borrowed during the first four decades of the twentieth century, but particularly during the 1920s. Many architects commonly advertised their expertise in a broad stylistic range during this period. The wide availability of photographs, and the popularization of revival styles through architectural journals, in concert with Beaux Arts exposure, might have allowed for greater historical accuracy. However, many of the best designs of the period are not historically "correct" copies of mannerism but are the architect's creative interpretation of the style.⁴⁴

and that:

Tudor and Elizabethan Revival styles draw primarily upon English antecedents of the sixteenth century. Ornamental half-timbering applied over a conventional balloon frame structure and in-filled with stucco or brick is a hallmark of the Tudor Revival. Elizabethan Revival buildings, much rarer in Wisconsin, are more commonly of brick with stone detailing. They also tend to be larger in scale and more formal. Both styles are characterized by elaborate decorative chimneys, multi-gabled rooflines, and large window expanses subdivided by a multitude of mullions.⁴⁵ Tudor and Elizabethan Revival structures are irregular in plan.

Northland College has two buildings with clear historical references and Memorial Hall is one of the two. The other is Wakefield Hall, an example of the Colonial Revival style that was also designed by Thomas Shefchik in 1940. Tudor Revival buildings were popular primarily for residential uses, typically private homes. The popularity of the style coincided with the end of World War I and with advances in masonry veneering techniques that allowed builders to mimic the brick and stone exteriors of historic English prototypes, but at a reasonable cost.⁴⁶ Designers of Tudor Revival buildings referred to medieval English houses for design inspiration, frequently employing steeply pitched roofs, projecting bays, stone coping, pointed arches, and other medieval ornament. Memorial Hall incorporates several of these design features.

⁴⁴Wyatt, Architecture 2-28.

⁴⁵Ibid., 2-30.

⁴⁶Virginia McAlester, and Lee McAlester A field Guide to American Houses. (New York, Alfred A. Knopf), 1985.358.

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Tudor Revival-inspired detail on Memorial Hall is evidenced around the entrances, in the stone coping that edges the entrance bay roofline, and most significantly, around the fireplace in the main lounge on the first floor. The use of modest Tudor Revival detailing reflects the College's need to build a handsome building at a reasonable cost.

Memorial Hall is locally significant under Criterion C because its use of well-established Tudor Revival design elements such as an irregular plan, masonry construction, steeply pitched roofs, and stone trim, makes it a fine example of the Tudor Revival style as applied here to a women's dormitory. Memorial Hall is also a fine example of architect Thomas Shefchik's versatility in the use of Period Revival styles. The construction of Memorial Hall illustrates how widespread the use of Tudor Revival design was in the post-World War I period. As architects sought new architectural forms to house a growing population after the war they quickly recognized that the Tudor Revival style had a design vocabulary that could be adapted to satisfy a variety of housing needs, both private and institutional. In addition, the style managed to successfully suggest connections between modern buildings and prestigious, much older European residences and educational institutions, and thus provided the general public with a sense of architectural continuity. The design of Memorial Hall, which was begun in 1926 and completed in 1927, successfully combines a sense of permanence with a sense of institutional dignity, both of which were characteristics associated with the style. In addition, Memorial Hall is also now the oldest building on the Northland College campus that still retains its historic integrity. Wheeler Hall, which is the oldest building on campus, has lost integrity through inappropriate wall and window treatments and through the addition of an incompatible third story.

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10. Geographic Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The west 3/4 of lots 3 and 4 and the east 1/2 of lots 9 and 10 and the vacated alley between lots 3 and 4 and lots 9 and 10; block 8; Superior Addition; City of Ashland.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries have been drawn to include all of the property historically associated with this building.

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Photographs:

Memorial Hall
Northland College
Ashland, Ashland County, Wisconsin
Photographer: Rebecca Sample Bernstein
date: October 2, 1993

1. North Elevation
2. North Elevation of west wing
and North and West elevations of north wing.
3. East Elevation
4. East and South Elevations
5. South and West Elevations
6. First story paired window detail
7. First story, main elevation, window detail.
8. Resident lounge fireplace, detail.
9. Hall, doorway, stairs, detail, north stairwell.
10. Dorm room door, detail.