

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

THEME: Arts and Sciences

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DATE ENTERED

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC North Hall, University of Wisconsin

AND/OR COMMON

North Hall, University of Wisconsin

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER University of Wisconsin campus

CITY, TOWN

Madison

___ VICINITY OF

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Wisconsin

CODE

055

COUNTY

Dane

CODE

025

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	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input 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 University of Wisconsin, Vice President for Special Events
(608/262-5814)

STREET & NUMBER

1752 Van Hise Hall

CITY, TOWN

Madison

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Office of the University Counsel
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

1744 Van Hise Hall

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

North Hall, the oldest building of the University of Wisconsin opened September 17, 1851. First called North Dormitory, the four story sandstone building had cost \$19,000. A plain, functional structure, very similar in style to many early institutional buildings, North Hall is a rectangular hip-roofed building with little ornamentation.

The five-bay center section of the east and west facades project slightly beyond the three-bay end sections. There are four rather small single-door entrances, two on both the east and west facades, located in the end sections. A plain lintel block tops all of the windows and doors and there is a water-course of the same stone material around the base of the building. A plain, rather deep cornice outlines the roofline which is marked with eight tall interior chimneys.

For many years North Hall was used as a dormitory, with 24 suites, consisting of a study and one or two bedrooms, on each of the first three floors and classrooms on the fourth. Fifty or sixty students lived in the building until 1884 when a fire destroyed the main classroom building and North Hall was then converted into offices and classrooms. Various departments have used the building and currently it is occupied by offices and seminar rooms of the Political Science Department.

The exterior of North Hall is apparently little changed since its construction, except for repairs and replacement of some of the quite soft local sandstone blocks which have crumbled in places. The interior has been remodeled and renovated innumerable times to provide for various university uses, however, some of the original room arrangement, and the staircases are intact. North Hall was never a grand building with any large open spaces or special detailing, and remains today a very functional, working building, with narrow hallways and many offices utilizing every bit of space.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1851 (construction) BUILDER/ARCHITECT John F. Raque, of Milwaukee

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The University of Wisconsin possesses a record of serving the people of Wisconsin since the construction of its first building, North Hall, in 1851. And in the first decade of the twentieth century, the university established the ideal of a state university's service to the community so effectively that national and international imitation subsequently occurred. Known as the "Wisconsin Idea," the university's cooperative program stemmed from the concept that an enlightened public would best ensure a progressive America. The response of Wisconsin's citizens, and a subsequent national acceptance of the scheme, underscored the validity of the "Wisconsin Idea."

The Wisconsin legislature established the University of Wisconsin by an act of July 26, 1848. Following the passage of the Morrill Act in 1862, the State saddled the university with Wisconsin's land grant and the problem of how to apply the proceeds of the grant to the teaching of agriculture. Only after long effort was the university able to defeat attempts to establish a separate agricultural school, as desired by Granger interests and the Populists. That victory, in part, stemmed from the institution's effort to improve its agricultural instruction, plus creating effective extension courses. The first extension work began in 1885, and farmers' institutes, short courses in farming, and summer schools greatly benefited the farmer.

The extension work of the university preceded the emergence of the "Wisconsin Idea." Indeed, the "Wisconsin Idea" traced its ancestry to the Jacksonian period, to the era of broadening democratic thought. Thus, while not an original concept, the "Wisconsin Idea" readily achieved success in Wisconsin when applied with unprecedented vigor because, in part, the university's effective early extension work enabled the state's people to appreciate the contribution that the university could make to the betterment of life in the state.

Charles R. Van Hise, who became president of the university in 1904 and remained so for fourteen years, capitalized on the propitious moment to thrust the University of Wisconsin deeper into the daily life of the State. Only 46 in 1904, the new president believed strongly in the value of education. He conceived of three goals for his institution: to prepare undergraduates for productive careers; to promote learning; and to carry knowledge to the people

(Continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

John S. Brubacher and Willis Rudy, Higher Education in Transition, (New York, 1958); Merle Curti and Vernon Carstensen, The University of Wisconsin, (2 vols., Madison, Wisconsin, 1949); Earle D. Ross, Democracy's College, The Land-Grant Movement in the Formative States, (Ames, Iowa, 1942); Frederick Rudolph, The American College and University, (New York, 1962).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 6	3 0 4 3 7 0	4 7 7 1 8 1 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuation Sheet)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Blanche Higgins Schroer, Landmark Review Project; S. Sydney Bradford, 1965

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

May 1975

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20240

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

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC

LANDMARKS)

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and apply it to political, economic, and social problems. Van Hise used his position to promote the preceding goals, and his optimism, energy, sincerity and honesty enabled him to accomplish much. The fact that Van Hise enjoyed a close friendship with Robert M. LaFollette, the progressive governor of Wisconsin between 1901 and 1905, also contributed to the implementation of his ideals.

Van Hise emphasized the idea of service to the state. During his presidency, he achieved spectacular results in serving the state through detailing professors to assist the state government and by greatly expanding the university's extension work.

As the "Wisconsin Idea" became a reality under Van Hise, more and more university scholars became involved in legislative and regulatory affairs. Forty-one members of Van Hise's staff served on one or more commissions by 1908. Acting on a non-partisan basis, the professors helped to write bills, staffed new regulatory bodies, and endeavored to devise solutions to troublesome problems confronting the state. Van Hise himself sat on five state commissions. The preceding had occurred to some degree in other states, but never in such a strong and effective manner as in Wisconsin. When the particularly hospitable Progressive Party lost power in 1914, the scholars began to return to their classrooms.

Just as the university's involvement in state government established a pattern, so did its rejuvenated extension work. Through it the institution effected a practical application of knowledge, to a degree never before attempted. By 1910, over 5,000 people participated in the university's correspondence courses. Although much of the extension work involved agriculture, strong efforts were made to develop a broader extension program. Thus District Centers of Extension Teaching, a Bureau of General Welfare, and a Bureau of Debating and Public Discussion arose. Professors from the university participated in the preceding, as well as in additional extension educational activities.

Van Hise's success in transforming the university into a vigorous state institution, in the broadest sense of the phrase, attracted wide attention. Viewed as a logical development within a democracy, his application of the "Wisconsin Idea" deserved the wide applause and imitation that it received.

***History from original report by S. Sydney Bradford, 1965.

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North Hall is today situated in the midst of the large, modern University of Wisconsin campus, midway up the north side of the elm-lined hill around which the older portion of the campus clusters, part of which forms the Bascom Hill Historic District, listed on the National Register.

The landmark boundary is drawn to include just the building in a 90 by 180 foot rectangle. Beginning at a point 350 feet east and 180 feet north of the southwest corner of section 14, T7N, R9E, in Madison Wisconsin, the national historic landmark boundary runs north, parallel to the west boundary of section 14 for 140 feet; thence west, parallel to the south boundary of section 14 for 90 feet; thence south, parallel to the west boundary of section 14 for 140 feet; thence east 90 feet to the point of beginning.