1. Name of Property

historic name
St. John's Lutheran College - Girls' Dormitory

other names/site number
Mundinger Hall

2. Location

street & number
Sixth Avenue and Gary Street

n/a □ not for publication

city or town
Winfield

n/a □ vicinity

state Kansas
code KS

county Cowley
code 035
zip code 67156

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this XX 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 XX 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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title
KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Date
12-13-01

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

4. National Park Service Certification

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

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other, (explain):

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date
5. Classification

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<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property</th>
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<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
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<td>(Check only one box)</td>
<td>(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)</td>
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Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

n/a

6. Function or Use

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<td>VACANT/NOT IN USE</td>
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7. Description

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<tr>
<td>Late Gothic Revival (Collegiate Gothic)</td>
<td>walls STONE</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>roof CERAMIC TILE</td>
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<td></td>
<td>other</td>
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Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

(see continuation sheet)
8. Statement of Significance

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

Property is:

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 or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1950-1951

Significant Dates

1950 (completion of North Wing)

1953 (completion of West Wing)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Overend & Boucher, Architects, Wichita KS

Lippert Brothers Const. Co., Oklahoma City OK

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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

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

1  14  679090  4123580
zone easting northing

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title  Clayton B. Fraser, Principal
organization  FRASERdesign
date  3 August 2001

street & number  420 South County Road 23E
telephone  970.669.7969

city or town  Loveland
state  Colorado  zip code  80537

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets
Maps
A USGS map (7½ 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)

Property Owner
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name/title  MDI Limited Partnership No. 68

street & number  1600 University Avenue, Suite 212
telephone  612.646.7848

city or town  St. Paul
state  Minnesota  zip code  55104

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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
Mundinger Hall, the principal girls' dormitory at St. John's Lutheran College, is situated within the mildly urban setting of the southern Kansas city of Winfield. The building lies in a suburban small-college campus several blocks east of Winfield's central business district. Developed incrementally over time, this campus is surrounded by an early 20th century residential neighborhood. The surrounding buildings are primarily single-family dwellings, one or two stories in height, with modestly scaled architecture and conventional residential landscaping. Mundinger Hall is the westernmost structure on the St. John's College campus (see Figure 1). Immediately south of the building is Mary Hall, a two-story frame house that is the last of what were four such single-family residences that aligned along Seventh Avenue. East of the dormitory across Gary Street is the Physical Plant, a brick structure built in 1924. Other buildings that comprise the campus include Rehwinkle Hall [1916], Meyer Hall [1924] and Baden Hall [1894], all massive three-story stone buildings, and the more recent Campus Center [1965], Library [1961] and Gymnasium.
Mundinger Hall is situated on the south side of Sixth Avenue at the corner of Gary Street. Though it abuts both streets, the building's front actually faces south, toward a landscaped lawn. The hall is set back from the concrete sidewalks on two sides, giving it a more imposing countenance and integrating it with the front-lawn setbacks of its residential neighbors. Between the sidewalk and the dormitory is a small grass lawn; large deciduous trees are aligned in the grassed parkways an on the front and west-side lawns. Concrete sidewalks criss-cross in front of the building. These intersect at a small open-sided shelter southwest of the dormitory along Gary Street.

Designed in 1949 by Wichita architects Overend & Boucher, the main section of Mundinger Hall was originally configured as an elongated three-story (with raised basement) rectangle, 186'0" long by 46'0" deep. This was to be joined by two symmetrical three-story wings, each 40'0"x 80'0", that connected perpendicularly to the ends of the original building to form a U-shaped structure. Limited funding prevented the college from building all three wings at once, however. As a result, the main building--called the North Wing--was undertaken in 1949-1950, and the appurtenant wing--called the West Wing--was built in 1952-1953. The proposed East Wing was never built, leaving the building with an el-shaped footprint. Both wings feature reinforced concrete foundations, masonry exterior bearing walls, gypsum block interior bearing walls and pan-type concrete floor slabs over steel bar joists. The roofs are supported by traditional wood rafter systems that rest on the exterior and interior bearing walls.

The defining elements of the building are essentially intact today. The roof over each wing is a steeply pitched side-gable, sheathed with overlapping clay tiles and framed on both sides by raking stone parapets. A large parapeted cross-gable is centered on the front and rear walls of the North Wing, and numerous small gabled dormers punctuate the roof planes of both wings. Attached stairway structures that frame each side of the North Wing are capped with flat roofs covered by composition roofing. The exterior walls are comprised of limestone ashlar, with a corbeled cast stone watertable and dressed stone copings on the parapets. The windows on all sides of the building are evenly spaced in the stone walls. These feature cast stone lug sills, steel angle loose lintels and steel 2/2 double-hung sashes in steel frames.

For its architectural expression, Mundinger Hall employs the Collegiate Gothic style. Though not a high-style interpretation, the design for Mundinger Hall reflected the building's relatively late date and the modest means of the college. Collegiate Gothic was an offshoot of the Late Gothic Revival style, which had found widespread popularity for ecclesiastical, educational and some commercial buildings in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The style could be employed in either symmetrical or asymmetrical building forms, with the unifying feature being the Gothic detailing on key building elements. Mundinger Hall derives its architectural distinction from its handsomely proportioned, symmetrical facades, hand-crafted stone masonry and picturesque Gothic details. The double-leaf main entrance on the south side of the North Wing, for
instance, is framed by a Gothic surround featuring buttresses with raked coping stones, wrought iron sconces, foliated name panel and a pointed arch archivolt. The entrance in the corner between the two wings is similarly detailed, with the addition of a Gothic-detailed, two-story oriel above the entrance.

Though there have been minor changes to the room layout and interior door openings of Mundinger Hall, the building’s spatial organization has remained essentially unchanged. The dormitory is organized internally as it always has been, with double-occupancy dorm rooms, lavatories, lobbies and other spaces aligned linearly along narrow, double-loaded hallways. Access to the upper levels is by concrete-walled stair vestibules located at both ends of the North Wing. The interior finishes are generally uniform throughout both wings of the building, with painted plaster or concrete block (both glazed and plain) walls, carpet or vinyl-asbestos tile floors and painted plaster or celotex tile ceilings. Internal doorways feature single-leaf, hollow-core slab doors set in hollow-metal steel frames. Wood trim is minimal, limited to baseboards and window sills and aprons. In its exterior and interior finishes, the building presents conflicting messages. The sumptuous Gothic detailing of the exterior walls does not carry through to the building’s interior, which can most charitably be described as Spartan. In truth, the dorm rooms—with their concrete block walls, hard tile floors, uncased windows and unadorned ceilings with bare-bulb florescent light fixtures—bear more than a passing resemblance to prison cells.

Mundinger Hall remains essentially intact from its original construction, but there have been minor alterations to the building. In 1968 some of the non-bearing interior partitions were moved to create additional dorm rooms; in 1982 the attic was insulated; in 1983 the electrical system was replaced; in 1984 a steel fire escape was added onto the south wall of the West Wing; and at some point the original entrances have been replaced with aluminum storefronts. These last two alterations have impacted the appearance of the structure's exterior, but this impact is relatively minor and does not impinge upon the building's overall architectural character. Mundinger Hall today maintains a relatively high degree of integrity of design, workmanship, location, setting, materials, feeling and association. The building is an important landmark for the city, a visual anchor for the St. John’s College campus.
MUNDINGER HALL  
Cowley County, Kansas

Constructed in two stages in 1950 and 1953, Mundinger Hall at St. John’s Lutheran College is a locally prominent landmark that derives its significance from two principal areas: education and architecture. Like Rehwinkle Hall, listed in 1991, the property is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for its integral role in the development of St. John’s College. Mundinger Hall was funded largely through grass-roots contributions from hundreds of individuals, churches and organizations. The building enjoyed such widespread support in the community because it fulfilled a long-felt need at St. John’s for a first-class women’s dormitory. It helped to open the college to expanded female enrollment and signalled the beginning of an extended period of relative prosperity for the school. Founded by one of Winfield’s most prominent 19th century businessmen, St. John’s College was one of only two such private denominational colleges in the city. Additionally, at one time it was one of only six such schools in the state. As such it played a significant role in the educational development of the city and the surrounding three-state area.

Mundinger Hall is also eligible under Criterion C for its embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a period and style of construction. The building exemplifies the Collegiate Gothic style, an architectural idiom that was especially well-suited for educational and administrative structures. The buildings at St. John’s College have all been products of their time. This includes the Richardsonian Romanesque Baden Hall, the first building erected in 1893-1894, the Classical Revival Rehwinkle and Meyer halls built in the 1910s and 1920s, and even the more modern gymnasium, student union and library built in the 1960s. Although it integrates well with the other structures on campus, Mundinger Hall is unlike any other building here in its use of the Collegiate Gothic style. Its classically derived facade is further distinguished by its re-tardaure construction. Built a decade after the style had largely fallen from favor among American architects, it is noteworthy for its quality of materials and construction and for its excellent state of preservation.

The fact that one wing of Mundinger Hall is less than fifty years old is somewhat problematic. The relatively late construction of the West Wing is mitigated, however, by the fact that it had been planned in 1949 with the original design of the building. Only the lack of funding prevented the school from undertaking the West Wing with the original building. Moreover, the wing was executed by Overend & Boucher, the original architects, and constructed by the same contractor that had built the original building. It closely matches the original building in scale, materials and details. The 1953 addition is thus a planned extension of the original structure, which illustrates the continually changing nature of buildings on the St. John’s campus. For decades a local landmark, Mundinger Hall represents an important aspect of Winfield history. As such it deserves to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
John Peter Baden was born in Elsdorf, Hanover, Germany, on March 24, 1851, the youngest of five children. His mother died two days later due to complications of childbirth, and at the age of seven John was put to work herding sheep on his father's small farm. He worked there for eight years before immigrating to America in 1866 with two older brothers, Henry and John. He immediately traveled to Hannibal, Missouri, to join a third brother, Diedrich, who had sailed over three years earlier. John learned to speak English while employed in a cigar factory, first cutting and then rolling cigars at piecework wages. Working for $25 per week, he saved enough money to attend Jones Commercial College in St. Louis, where he graduated after three years. Baden then tried to run a confectionery store in Columbus, Kansas. When that failed, he moved to Independence to work for his two brothers in their mercantile business. John functioned as the travel representative and wholesale manager of the Baden Mercantile Company, clerking for his brothers by day and moonlighting at night selling game meat. By working almost continuously, he was able to accumulate some $5,000, which he used to start his own mercantile business in Winfield in 1879.

Before moving his stock into the Bahntage Building at the end of July, Baden brought his wife and son to Winfield by stage. John had met Adelaide Elizabeth Ballein of Neosho, Missouri, two years earlier when she visited a friend in Independence. The two struck up a six-month correspondence and in January 1878 were married. Their first son, Martin, was born ten months later. Baden was a devout Lutheran who had been confirmed by a German pastor before coming to America at age fifteen. Early in his courtship of Elizabeth, he began pressuring her to convert from Roman Catholicism. "Oh, darling, my heart yearns for your salvation as much as my own," he wrote to her in November. "I love you, I love you. The tears are blurring my eyes, and I cannot help writing you, and hope you will forgive me. I do like to think of you with the trust that someday I shall have the great happiness to see you realize that you will have to place your confidence in Jesus Christ who died for you, instead of in the Roman Catholic Church... I know that I have your love and don't intend that anything could come between us, but it would be much better that we could both be the same."  

1"Mr. J.P. Baden of Baden Bros., Independence, had visited on June 5," the Winfield Courier reported. "[He] left for home... having rented the Bahntage Building of which he gains possession on August 1. Mr. Baden is one of the most successful businessmen in the Southwest... and we commend him as a gentleman of integrity and one who will do just what he advertises." Winfield Courier, 12 June 1879.

2Quoted by Adelaide Baden Barnard in "John Peter and Adelaide Elizabeth Baden, Philanthropists," Celebrate: Winfield History, 2-3. At 26, Baden was already considering his place in the community. Claiming "I have attended to business so closely to know anything else," he asked Elizabeth to make all of their living arrangements. "I know full well that a merchant in my position cannot be home just anywhere."
In the face of such persuasion, Elizabeth converted to the Lutheran church in 1880. Reportedly the only Lutherans in Winfield, they hired a clergyman to conduct services in their house. Under John’s energetic proselytizing, other townspeople eventually came into the church. The peripatetic congregation held services first in a school, then in the city council room, the Baden store, the courthouse, and in a room in the town’s Baptist church. Meanwhile, John’s business was thriving. "Our trade in butter, eggs, chickens, etc. is immense," he stated in the Winfield Courier. "This city is shipping more of these kinds of produce than any other city in Kansas, and we will undertake to show it from our books if anyone doubts it... This is the best county in the West." Regarded around town as a "human dynamo," Baden worked non-stop to develop his firm. In 1882 he became the first merchant in Winfield to install two telephones in his business house. "J.P. Baden’s fame as a produce dealer has reached New York City and is spreading to the uttermost parts of the earth," the Courier claimed hyperbolically in 1884.

In 1889 Baden acquired the Bliss & Wood Roller Mills, a water- and steam-powered flour milling operation located on the banks on the Walnut River. Renaming it the Winfield Roller Mills, he remodeled and enlarged the plant, doubling its capacity. With over 250 men producing some $2 million of flour annually, Baden’s facility soon became the leading milling establishment in Kansas. In 1894 Baden purchased the Winfield ice plant and immediately upgraded its capacity with modern refrigeration equipment. This latter acquisition provided him with a degree of vertical integration. Through his own plants and stores, he could produce, store, ship and sell eggs, dairy products, corn, flour, poultry, game meat and other produce, providing staples for large parts of Kansas, Arkansas and Oklahoma. It is this integration that helped him weather the Panic of 1893 and the three-year depression that followed. As Baden’s empire grew, he eventually became Winfield’s largest employer. "These various enterprises afford work for several hundred men," a biographer later stated, "and the people of Winfield point to them with pride, for surely no man by his own endeavor has done more to promote the general welfare of the city."

3Biographical Record (Chicago: Biographical Publishing Company, 1901), 39. The Winfield Courier, in "Last Sad Rites," 7 March 1900, described Baden’s business acumen:

His career in Winfield has been phenomenally successful. His every venture proved successful and everything he touched made him money. His fertile brain early saw the possibilities of the produce business in this country and the development of that idea has made Winfield the most widely known in the commercial world probably of any city of its size in the United States. He enlarged his store here until when he sold it to Brady Bros, a few years ago, it was one of the largest stores in Winfield. Since then he has devoted his entire attention to his mill, one of the biggest and best in the state, his ice plant and cold storage, the largest plant west of St. Louis, and his produce business.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

section number 8     page 7

MUNDINGER HALL       Cowley County, Kansas

Through hard work and perseverance, John Baden had become one of the most successful businessmen in Winfield. But success had its price. After working almost non-stop for a lifetime, Baden’s health had begun to fail by his mid-40s. In the summer of 1897 he checked himself into the Battle Creek Sanitarium, J.H. Kellogg’s famous Michigan medical facility, to recuperate.4 Exhausted and emaciated, he looked much older than his 46 years. He returned to Winfield that fall and resumed his duties at the roller mill, but Baden never fully recovered. On March 3, 1900, after a prolonged illness, he died of pneumonia. The Courier reported Baden’s funeral:

There may never be another such funeral in Winfield. Business was suspended, district court was adjourned, and the public schools closed for the afternoon, out of respect for the illustrious dead. The entire community for whom the lamented dead had done so much, was anxious to pay a last tribute to his memory, and the [St. John’s] college chapel did not hold one-tenth of the people. Mr. Baden’s employees at his various institutions formed an open order, facing in, on each side of the walk leading to the college, having met at the ice plant and marched to the college in a body... Mr. Baden's death is almost an irretrievable loss to Winfield and the entire city mourns him like a father. In addition to his value from a commercial sense he had a remarkable hold on the affection of the people and the longer he was known the better he was liked. No man ever did more for Winfield than J.P. Baden and in his death the city loses one of its greatest benefactors.5

In addition to his commercial success, Baden had contributed often to Winfield civic and charitable organizations. He served as director of the Cowley County Fair and Driving Association and contributed money to improve the fairgrounds and racetrack. He served on the Executive Board of the Island Park Chautauqua Assembly and was instrumental in building the observatory on East Ninth Hill. In 1898 he contributed a 10,000-pound carload of flour to feed starving Cuban revolutionaries. Baden contributed often to local causes as well. Just two months before his death, he joined with several other Winfield citizens to establish the city’s first public hospital. A lifelong Lutheran, he contributed often to church causes. In 1888, for instance, he helped build Winfield’s first Lutheran church, St. Martin’s, and donated a parsonage.

4In one of his last letters to his wife, dated 26 July 1897, Baden expressed optimism about his health and his stay at the Kellogg facility:

Come as soon as possible, Santa Fe Route. Everything seems so perfect, but the style that such people the Robisons look for isn’t here, but cures are marvelous, and before you return to Winfield you will be as well as ever. I am feeling well, and they say I will be cured in 4 to 5 weeks. I presume I will have to stay that long. Don’t worry about the boys. There are plenty of young people here and such varied numbers of exercises and amusements, including baseball.

Quoted by Adelaide Baden Bernard, Celebrate..., 9.

5“City in Mourning,” Winfield Courier, 5 March 1900.
Without question, John Baden’s greatest philanthropic act involved the establishment of a Lutheran college in Winfield. He first formulated the idea for a theology school in 1891 and in the summer of 1892 broached the plan to the former pastor of St. Martin’s Church, Rev. A.W. Meyer. As conceived by Baden, the school would “spread the leaven of good Lutheranism in the field of education, politics, business, and the like.” He was adamant that the school feature the English language, rather than German spoken at other German Synod institutions. For this reason, he would approach the upstart English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri and Other States, instead of the established German Missouri Synod, of which he was a member. “This college was to be a Lutheran college preparing first and above all young men to become ministers of the Lutheran Church; however, it was not to confine and limit itself to the training of preachers, but it should throw open its doors also to such Lutheran and even non-Lutheran boys and girls as would acquire a training under Christian influence, with Christian ideals always before them.” Baden’s college would provide an alternative to the Southwest Kansas College, formed by the Methodist Episcopal Church in Winfield in the mid-1880s.6

After discussing his plan with Meyer and others, Baden pledged at the end of the year to donate $25,000 to build and endow the college. Of this $15,000 would be used to construct a building; the remainder would be used to defray the college’s initial expenses. (The amount was doubled a month later, with $20,000 earmarked for the building fund.) Despite the fact that the poorly funded English Synod had administered only one previous school—and that unsuccessfully—the organization received Baden’s offer enthusiastically.7 In February 1893 the synod sent Rev. C.L. Janzow of St. Louis to Winfield to help Baden select a site and draft the school charter. Baden purchased Block 12 of the Grand View Addition for $1200 to serve as the college campus.

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7The college’s first professor, H. J. Stoeppelewerth, later attributed the synod’s decision to accept Baden’s school to supernatural forces:

Humanly speaking, this Synod had no business, indeed, no right, to accept an offer that put it under such an obligation. But it did. Why? The pastors of the English Synod were all comparatively young men, but level-headed men withal. And they were headed by that grand old man F. Kuegele, the conservative. They knew that the college could never serve the purpose as their college, and they knew full well that they never could and never would support the college with money as they promised to do by their acceptance. They may have acted on a misunderstanding, but that explains the enigma only partly. I cannot see why any other explanation than that God wanted the school in Winfield, wanted to bless the offer of this humble Christian from the very start, wanted to put His stamp of approval upon this offer of Christian service.
Janzow, for his part, commissioned St. Louis architect Charles F. May to design the structure. With the drawings completed that spring, the synod let the construction contracts. On April 10, 1893, before a small group of supporters, Adelaide Baden ceremoniously broke ground for the new structure. A month later the college was formally accepted by the synod as St. John’s English Lutheran College. Janzow had suggested Concordia College—"an old Lutheran standard"—as a name, but Adelaide rejected it as inappropriate to the school’s pan-educational charter and its co-educational intent. Instead, she offered to name the school after John the Evangelist, "the apostle of Christian love, which embraces all and shuts out no one."

In June 1893 the building’s cornerstone was laid ceremoniously. Though completion of the hall was not expected until the following year, Baden was determined that classes would begin that fall. He furnished two rooms of one of his downtown commercial buildings to serve as a make-shift school, and the synod sent H.J. Stoeppelwerth, a recent graduate of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, to function as the school’s first instructor. For the first class, Baden was able to round up twelve students. The first student body consisted of six girls and six boys—only four of whom were actually Lutheran and none were studying for the ministry. One observer remarked that at the time the entire faculty and student body of the ministerial department of St. John’s College were sleeping in one bed. Stoeppelwerth was soon joined by a second instructor, and at the end of the year Rev. Henry Sieck took charge as the school’s first president.

On March 1, 1894, the building was dedicated (see Figure 2). Regaled by prayers, hymns and speeches, the large group in attendance marveled at the massive Romanesque structure. "This marks the opening of another institution of which Winfield is proud and for which she is noted," the Courier enthused. "Built of fine stone, rough ashlar style, three stories and basement and finished in fine hard wood which is simply beautiful. The walls are calssomined [sic] as beautiful sky blue and the ceilings pure white. This is a monument built to a cause that will stand when all else shall crumble to dust and in letters as imperishable as the monument erected, emblazoned on the pages of history, will stand the name of its founder and builder, J.P. Baden."

Stoeppelwerth later marveled at his lack of educational training, saying:

As often as I think of the courses that I was called upon to teach at St. John’s the first few years: Latin, Greek—and not only beginning classes either—English, German, arithmetic, algebra, plane geometry, history, penmanship, drawing, commercial law, zoology, physiology, in some of which branches I had no training whatever, in all of which my training was deficient, and for none of which I had received specific training, then I also call to mind the long hours of painstaking preparation on my part to keep just one lap ahead of my classes—and I wonder what kind of deal the students were getting.

With virtually no funding to commit to the college, the English Synod was ill-equipped to cope with its upkeep. When Baden had donated the facility, synod officials mistakenly assumed that he would retain responsibility for its finances as well. Baden, on the other hand, had every reason to expect the synod to assume financial responsibility, given the terms of their contract. In truth, the synod had no intention to support the school and had not even budgeted money for
faculty salaries in the beginning. It was only after several months elapsed in 1893 without pay that Stoeppelwerth finally complained to Baden. Baden and the synod soon settled into an uneasy alliance, with the synod spending as little as it could manage for maintenance of the school and Baden compensating for the many shortfalls. The college thus functioned with a three-man faculty through the 1890s, barely able to make ends meet due to the penury of the synod. Baden was forced to provide continued financial support to keep his school from closing entirely.

St. John’s first personnel change occurred in the spring of 1895, when Sieck resigned under the cloud of the school’s insolvency and was replaced by Rev. Meyer.

St. John’s College stumbled along uncertainly under the administration of the English Synod until Baden’s death in March 1900. With its benefactor dead and the endowment almost exhausted, the synod was eventually forced to turn the facility over to the more well-heeled German Synod in 1908, having spent only $3,000 of its own funds for fourteen years of operation. Attendance during these initial years increased incrementally—12 students in 1893; 27 in 1894-1895; and 100 in 1899-1900—before declining after the turn of the century. Despite Baden’s original intentions that St. John’s be an English Lutheran theological facility, relatively few of these students were bound for the ministry and fewer still came from the English Synod. Once transferred into the German Missouri Synod, the school’s attendance increased steadily from 72 in 1908 to 243 in 1926. According to Stoeppelwerth, “When we look at the increased enrollment, we are bound to say with gratitude: God has been good and gracious to St. John’s.”

With the increase in students and faculty came the attendant need for more space and facilities on the campus. The lot that Baden had purchased in 1893 measured 300x300. This was adequate for a single building but hardly enough to house a growing student body and additional structures. Lacking funds for even basic services, English Synod officials did not even consider purchasing adjacent land. In 1908, though, with the transfer of ownership, the college acquired its first additional property, Block 11 of the Grandview Addition, donated by college supporters. In 1918 St. John’s acquired a triangle of land on Seventh Avenue from the city. The following year the school procured Block 10 of the Addition. For twenty years—from 1894 to 1914—St. John’s College resided entirely within Baden’s original building, with administrative offices, classrooms, dormitory, library, kitchen, dining hall, power-plant and gymnasium all housed under a single, increasingly crowded, roof.

Sleeping quarters in the hall were filled to capacity in the 1913-1914 school year. When fifteen more students enrolled the following year and 27 more the year after, the overflow was quar­tered in rented houses on a temporary basis. Clearly, more facilities were needed to accommodate the increased enrollment. St. John's College was suffering, after twenty years of privation, from its own success. In 1914 college directors prevailed upon the synod for a new dormitory building. While synod officials bickered for months about the building’s construction, Meyer constructed a makeshift dormitory immediately east of the main building that could be later converted into a gymnasium. Completed in 1914, the new concrete block structure housed scores of kids in what amounted to a single large bedroom until completion in 1916 of the permanent, fireproof dormitory for boys [now Rehwinkle Hall, listed on the National Register in 1991] west of the main building.
In 1924 the college built a three-story brick administration building between the main hall and the boys' dormitory (see Figure 3). That same year the powerplant was constructed, containing a central gas-fired boiler that provided steam to heat the other structures. According to Stoeppler, "After the great building program in 1924-1925, there was of course a lull in further expansion also in Winfield. Synod had, as it were, outreached itself. The college hospital, for which Synod had appropriated $20,000, was not built. The much-needed stacks for our library, for which money had been allowed by Synod, were not bought. There was no money on hand." 11

Although St. John's had admitted girls from the beginning, school administrators had never really catered to a large female student population, in part because housing facilities were inadequate. Lacking dormitory rooms for girls, the college initially put them up in the private residences of its faculty members. With new ownership in 1908 came a new resolve to recruit female students from the German Missouri Synod, and the school rented a house on Ninth Avenue, about nine blocks from the campus. Twelve girls stayed here for $3 per week, room and board. The situation changed little over the next fifteen years, as female enrollment at St. John's hovered at next to nothing. In 1924 Sylvia Smith donated two lots across Seventh Avenue from the college, with the stipulation that they be used as the site for a girls' dormitory. With no money to build the facility, however, the college simply held the land, eventually exchanging it for other property west of the boys' dormitory in 1931. This new property contained a frame house, which the college rehabilitated into a small dormitory for girls at a cost of $500. This building housed some thirteen girls through the 1930s and 1940s. Though the new dorm represented an improvement over prior conditions, it still marked a gaping inequity between the way boys and girls were treated on campus.

St. John's College underwent a change of administration in 1928, when A.W. Meyer retired and was replaced by Alfred M. Rehwinkle. During his twelve-year tenure as president, Rehwinkle instituted a scholastic honor system, initiated radio broadcasts, organized a historical society, originated a debating society, and tinkered with the curriculum to comply with state accreditation standards. True to J.P. Baden's initial intent, St. John's remained a two-year co-educational college offering programs in education, theology and business. "Some of these curricula were designed to prepare directly for some form of religious service in the congregation or in the church at large," Professor G.A. Kuhlmann stated. "Some of the curricula, however, were designed to offer opportunities to young people of both sexes to secure a higher education under

11Ibid., 58.
Christian influence. Under Rehwinkle's administration, only minor alterations to existing structures were undertaken in the way of physical improvements to the campus. No new buildings were constructed, and the thorny issue of girls' accommodations was left essentially unaddressed. South Hall, as the girls' dormitory became known, was "a disaster zone" with an "unwholesome building atmosphere." It was eventually converted into a boys' dormitory, and the girls were again placed in private residences scattered around the campus. Girls were still allowed into the college, of course, but the meager housing arrangements certainly did little to encourage them to attend St. John's.

When Rehwinkle resigned to teach elsewhere in 1936, the college hired Rev. Carl S. Mundinger as his replacement. Mundinger had been born in Manawa, Wisconsin, in February 1894, almost to the day that St. John's College was chartered. The son of a Lutheran pastor, he graduated from Concordia College in Milwaukee in 1913 and from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 1917. Mundinger married Sophia M. Krato and began his career by organizing four German Lutheran congregations in Walker, Minnesota. In 1926 he became pastor in Hopkins, Minnesota, while studying for a Master's degree at the University of Minnesota. In 1926 he became pastor in Hopkins, Minnesota, while studying for a Master's degree at the University of Minnesota. He had completed all of his residence work for a Ph.D. when he accepted the position at St. John's in 1936.

Unlike Rehwinkle, who seemed almost completely interested in academics, Mundinger took a more active stance and immediately began lobbying for new facilities at the college. He began with the gymnasium. Built in 1914 as a stop-gap measure, it could no longer accommodate the school's expanding physical education needs. After four years of planning, lobbying and fund-raising, Mundinger succeeded in having the existing building extensively remodeled in 1940. World War II effectively halted Mundinger's plans for expansion of the college, and St. John's was soon occupied with graduating theology students on an accelerated basis in response to a War Department directive. To produce more pastors for the war effort, the school streamlined class requirements, shortened semesters and operated on a twelve-month schedule. This program continued throughout the war years, and male attendance at St. John's rose, as attendance at divinity schools always tends to do during wartime.

12 Ibid., 66.
As the war was winding down in 1944, Mundinger resumed his building program. The next object of his attention was the boys' dormitory [Rehwinkle Hall]. Completed in 1916, it was ostensibly a fireproof structure, but the steel-lath-and-plaster interior walls had proved to be too thin and poorly anchored. These were replaced with hollow tile walls in the summer of 1946. The issue of girls' housing still remained unresolved, however. One school official acknowledged the problem, saying that without proper housing facilities, "self-respecting students may lose interest in their school work and may even change their purpose in life." In response, the school began fund-raising for a new dormitory late in 1947. As stated in December by the school newspaper, the St. John's Reporter, "St. John's is standing on the threshold of a new era of growth, but as yet the door to this era is partially closed because of a lack of housing facilities. St. John's hopes to build a girls' dormitory within the near future, but it will be impossible to do so until some more funds are collected."

Mundinger presented his need for money energetically to Lutheran districts around Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas over the next two years. In February 1949 the St. John's Board of Control considered the matter. Although the building was in critical demand, according to Mundinger, rising construction costs put its erection out of reach until more funds could be raised. Pending the arrival of additional funds, the Board approved construction of one section of the proposed three-section building. "Present plans call for the erection of the dormitory on the college-owned property at Sixth and Gary streets," the Reporter reported. "The main unit of the dormitory will face south. The buildings will be entirely modern, with many features incorporated for comfort and convenience. Mundinger immediately commissioned Wichita architects Overend & Boucher--the same firm that had designed the remodeling of the gymnasium and boys' dormitory--to design the new structure.

13 According to the St. John's Reporter:

"The interior of the men's dormitory was completely rebuilt to provide modern and more comfortable quarters for the men students. Among the improvements of the dormitory are new beds and desks, costing $9,000. A new type of concrete block, Haydite, has been used for all the interior partitions, and the floors have been covered with asphalt tile. The ceilings throughout the dormitory have been covered with Lempet, a new sound deadening material, in order to provide for the maximum absorption of sound. Florescent lighting has been installed in all the rooms and halls throughout the building, adding a great improvement.

"Interior of West Dormitory Remodeled at Cost of $93,000," St. John's Reporter, October 1946.


15 "Board to Consider Building Program," St. John's Reporter, 1 February 1949.
Although built over an extended period, the structures then at St. John's College displayed a noteworthy coherence of materials, scale and form. All faced south toward landscaped grounds and all were constructed of stone ashlar (or the concrete block equivalent). Each building was a product of its individual period and prevailing architectural style. Baden Hall, the original building at St. John's completed in 1894, employed the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Featuring massive stone masonry walls, an asymmetrical facade with a prominent central tower, steep roof planes and semi-circular arches over the windows and doors, it fit well within the architectural milieu of university, government and church buildings of the time. In this it exemplified Old Main buildings at scores of college campuses around America.

The gymnasium, built hurriedly in 1914, was a gabled box with stone-textured concrete-block walls, doubled windows lining its side walls and a single Diocletian window centered above the main entrance. Though the latter feature provided a modicum of architectural expression, the building was generally lacking in style. Completed in 1916, the boys' dormitory [Rehwinkle Hall] featured a pared-back Classical Revival style, typical of its time as well. Its symmetrical, stone-faced facade with stepped wall planes, flat roof and regularly spaced windows, was so austere in its form and detailing that the building more closely resembled a prison cellblock than a college dormitory. Despite this, it matched Old Main in its scale, materials and siting.

The three-story Administration Building [Meyer Hall] was constructed in 1923-1924. Like the boys' dormitory, it too featured a symmetrical Classical Revival facade rendered in stone ashlar, though it was more accomplished in its details and overall design. In this the Administration Building resembled the many courthouses, post offices and university buildings built in America between the turn of the century and the Great Depression. Situated between Baden Hall and the dormitory, the Administration Building acted as a visual buffer of sorts for the two other structures, combining architectural elements of both.

The depression and subsequent world war halted new building construction at St. John's College. The girls' dormitory [Mundinger Hall] would be the first all-new construction on the campus since completion of the powerplant in 1924. Its architects, in an apparent attempt to integrate the new building with the existing stone structures, reached back in time for their architectural idiom, choosing the Collegiate Gothic style (see Figure 4). First introduced to America on the campus of Bryn Mawr, Collegiate Gothic soon found its voice at ivy league schools such as Princeton, where President Woodrow Wilson in 1902 commented, "Gothic architecture has added a thousand years to the history of the university, and has pointed every man's imagination to the earliest traditions of learning in the English-speaking race." The ascendance of Collegiate Gothic coincided with a rapid expansion of college campuses that occurred after the turn of the century, making it the style of choice among campus architects throughout the country. Its Late Gothic Revival forms, teeming with decorative trappings such as arches, but-
MUNDINGER HALL  Cowley County, Kansas

Figure 4. Girls' Dormitory, St. John's College, from St. John's Reporter, 11 October 1949.

Mundinger solicited competitive bids for the dormitory in April 1949. At the end of the month proposals were received from three contractors: R.J. Smith and the Frankenfeld Construction Company, both of Winfield, and the Lippert Brothers Construction Company of Oklahoma City. Low bidder at $103,825, Lippert received the contract. The school lacked funds to complete the building, however, so the contract included only construction of the found-
dation and exterior masonry walls and tile roof. Consisting of gypsum block interior partitions, plastering, trim, plumbing and electrical wiring, the interior work would have to wait until an additional $75,000 could be raised. Excavation for the foundations began soon thereafter, and in May 1949 the school sponsored a ground-breaking ceremony. By October the exterior walls were reported two-thirds complete. A month later the walls were almost finished, and workers were laying roof boards over the rafters in preparation for the clay roof tiles. Lippert completed the stonework on November 23; by Christmas the roof was closed in.

Meanwhile, St. John's students and alumni--called Johnnies--were collecting money during chapel services, staging talent shows and selling cookies, memorial wreaths, movie tickets, their own blood and anything else they could to raise the additional funds needed for interior construction. Mundinger himself was making the rounds, actively soliciting contributions from Lutheran congregations in the Kansas District. The phenomenal response that resulted from these efforts provided a gauge of the widespread support that St. John's enjoyed in the community. Roughly half of the contributions came from Winfield residents and the remainder from other parts of Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Donations of as little as $3 poured in on a grass-roots level from churches, organizations and individuals all over the region. To furnish the building, the college was selling the rights--at $300--to equip each individual dorm room. "All Johnnies everywhere are asked to get behind the plan," the Reporter pleaded. "The need is so great, and the opportunity for service to our Savior's kingdom is so vast that every Johnnie, wherever he may be or whatever he may be doing, is being asked to help in this great undertaking."\(^{16}\)

After the new year, the college had raised enough funds to begin construction of the building's interior. By May this had progressed to the point that some of the rooms were being equipped with furniture.\(^{17}\) The college scheduled the dedication of the girls' dormitory to coincide with the Kansas Pastoral Conference in August. On August 23, about 1000 people gathered to see the hall officially opened. A month later it received its first female tenants. Landscaping, consisting of Colorado blue spruce, arbor vitae and Pfitzer trees and juniper shrubs, was emplaced the following spring.

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\(^{17}\)The Reporter stated:

Favorable progress has been reported on the new girls' dormitory. The plastering is now almost finished, and all of the rough work of the plumbing, heating and wiring has been finished. All floors in the halls have been sand-glazed.

"Dorm Progress Favorable; More Expansion Requested," *St. John's College Reporter*, 13 May 1950.
The enrollment of St. John's College had historically been limited by the dormitory space available to students. Beginning with the completion of the gymnasium/dormitory in 1914, the school had experienced marked increases in enrollment with the completion of each new dorm. The same held true when the girls' dorm was opened in 1950. With a capacity of 125, it finally allowed St. John's to recruit female students with the promise of first-class dormitory facilities.\(^{18}\) Enrollment increased accordingly that year and the year after. So successful was the dormitory, in fact, and the attendant increase in the female population of St. John's that the college undertook construction of a second, smaller wing just two years later. Called the West Wing to distinguish it from the main North Wing, it enclosed the west stair vestibule to form an "L" on the original building's west end.\(^{19}\)

The West Wing had actually been planned with the original building in 1949 and would probably have been built in 1950, if the funding had been sufficient. Architecturally and structurally identical to the original building, the new wing was also designed by Overend & Boucher and constructed by Lippert. It was completed in August 1953 for a cost of about $144,000. Two years later the school named its major buildings in honor of St. John's dignitaries. Under this new convention, the Old Main building was named Baden Hall; the 1914 boy's dormitory became Rehwinkel Hall; the Administration Building became Meyer Hall; and the girls' dormitory was named Mundinger Hall.

Carl Mundinger suffered a stroke in November 1955, which seriously diminished his capacity for work. Three years later he resigned as president, to be replaced in December 1959 by Rev. Reuben C. Beisel. St. John's had by then entered a period of sustained growth and expansion in its faculty, student body and physical plant. Under Beisel, the college built a new physical education building in 1959 and a library behind Baden Hall in 1960-1961. The school also acquired an existing school building at the campus' southern edge, which it rehabilitated into Academy Hall in 1964. A year later the Student Union Building, also called

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\(^{18}\)"First class" is a relative term, for in fact the rooms were Spartan in their architecture and furnishings, befitting a religion that espoused self-denial.

\(^{19}\)According to the *Reporter*:

Extending 92 feet south at right angles to the main dorm, thus forming an "L" shape, the new wing will have approximately 44 rooms, providing housing for about 80 women. It will be attached to the present dorm at each end of the four floor levels. Basement plans reserve space for a lounge, clinic, ironing and piano rooms. The other three floors will be used as living quarters. Each room will house two girls with the exception of four rooms on the fourth floor which will provide for three occupants. Space will also be provided for a suite of rooms for a nurse who will manage the clinic.
the Centennial Campus Center, and Timothy Hall, a small boys' dormitory, were both built. In 1968 Mundinger Hall, with a capacity of some 200 students, underwent minor interior alterations intended to create additional dorm rooms from other existing spaces.

In 1961 St. John's College was accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, capping a rigorous three-year examination process. Accreditation marked academic approval of St. John's by its peers--a long-sought coming-of-age for the small college. During the 1960s St. John's gradually expanded its educational horizons, adding courses, changing its two-year teaching program to accommodate an additional two-year stint at another college and introducing (and later dropping) an eight-week-long summer session. The school even applied--unsuccessfully, as it turned out--to synod officials for permission to expand into a four-year facility.

In 1975 St. John's College added a nursing program to its curriculum, which received widespread support from several Lutheran hospitals in the region. To house the program, the City of Winfield donated a four-story stone building, christened by the college as Virginia Hall, located two blocks north of the campus. With housing facilities for 58 students, Virginia Hall did not increase the load on Mundinger Hall. At about the same time, St. John's College entered into a joint operating agreement with Southwestern College whereby the two schools would share facilities and staff under a federal Title III grant.

The late 1970s marked a period of slow decline for St. John's, as interest in a two-year Lutheran college waned and attendance dropped. After years of consideration, the Missouri Synod finally closed the school in the mid-1980s. The last students moved out in 1985. Since then most of the campus buildings have been adaptively reused for a variety of purposes by the City of Winfield. The two most notable exceptions to this are Rehwinkle Hall, which was rehabilitated into subsidized senior housing in the early 1990s by MetroPlains Development of St. Paul, Minnesota, and Mundinger Hall, which has stood essentially abandoned. Now MetroPlains proposes to rehabilitate this structure as well into housing units. Sensitively rehabilitated, Mundinger Hall will again offer an opportunity for preservation and interpretation of this important aspect of Winfield history.
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Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 1 and 2, Block 10, Grandview Addition to City of Winfield, Kansas.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated area coincide with the legal and historical boundaries for the property.
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Amendment – February 15, 2008

This continuation sheet amends the previous nomination for the St. John’s Lutheran College Girls’ Dormitory (Mundinger Hall) in Winfield, KS to extend the period of the significance for the property from 1950-1951 as originally documented to 1950-1953. This change will encompass the completion of the west wing.

The construction of the west wing is described in the original nomination in section 7 page 2, section 8 page 4, and section 8 page 19. This wing was designed with the original building (called the north wing), but was not built until additional funding was secured to finance the construction. At the time the property was originally nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 2001, the period of significance was arbitrarily cut off at 1951. Extending the period of significance to 1953 more correctly reflects the significant period for the entire property.
Amendment – February 15, 2008

Photograph Log


