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7 DESCRIPTION

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 X_ORIGINAL SITE

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Old Main was designed by the St. Paul institutional architect William H. Willcox. The building is an example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style of architecture popular during the period of the building's construction. The structural system of the building is wood frame with brick masonry bearing walls throughout and cast iron supports in the basement level of the main portion.

Old Main was built in two stages. The east wing was completed in 1884. The main portion and concourse were completed in 1888. The east wing is three stories high on a full rusticated limestone basement. The wing is built on a rectangular plan and the roof is comprised of two intersecting gables. Originally a flesche was located at the ridge and to the north of the gable intersection. The principal gable contained a large round arch with inset rose window. The upper area of the gable contained decorative terra cotta. This entire section has been covered with vertical lap siding.

The main wing of the building is more elaborate. It is three stories high with a full rusticated limestone basement. The hipped roof is multigabled and dormered. The north facade or principal facade is symmetrical and comprised of five bays. The symmetry is broken only by a tower which is located to the right of the front portico. The front portico is constructed of limestone and brick. The dominant features of the portico are the carved columns capped with foliate capitals.

The windows on the first story are surrounded by semi-circular arches, on the second level with segmental arches, on the third level the windows are grouped and separated by columns to form an arcade. The attic level gables are faced with a decorative band of terra cotta in a combination of geometric and floral motifs.

The interior floor plan and room arrangement have been changed over the years to accommodate the needs of a growing institution. Although in fair condition, original door casings, newell posts, and wood floors remain intact. The interior is devoted to administrative and staff offices.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	-LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION		SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699		X EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
<u>X_</u> 1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Old Main is the oldest extant building associated with the one hundred twenty four year history of Macalester College. Macalester College is the outgrowth of the Baldwin School of St. Paul, organized by the notable educator, author, and historian Edward D. Neill in 1853. In 1874 Charles Macalester, of Philadelphia, donated the Winslow House (razed ca.1890) near the Falls of St. Anthony, with the understanding that the school would be developed into a college. The institution was named Macalester College in his honor. In 1883 a syndicate of trustees bought the present site on Snelling Avenue for the location of the campus. The east wing of Old Main was constructed in 1884 and the college opened in 1885. The main section and concourse were completed by 1888.

Old Main is a four story brick and stone building designed by William H. Willcox in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. The architectural firm of Willcox and Johnston was noted for mansion type houses on Summit Avenue in St. Paul (located within a National Register district) and southern Minnesota, churches and institutional buildings throughout the Midwest area.

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Archives, Macalester College Library.	ENCES
Funk, Henry Daniel, A History of Macalester	College, St. Paul: 1910.
Jarchow, Merrill E., Private Liberal Arts C	
Contributions, St. Paul: 1973. Kagin, Edwin, <u>James Wallace of Macalester</u> ,	Nov Vork, 1957
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hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Re-	gister and certify that it has been evaluated according to the
criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.	A a LAN
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