

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 8 1977
DATE ENTERED JAN 20 1978

**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

Wartburg Teachers' Seminary

AND/OR COMMON

Old Main

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Wartburg College Campus

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Waverly

VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Bremer

Iowa

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Wartburg College

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Waverly

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 50677

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bremer County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Waverly

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This structure was built in 1880 for the Wartburg Teachers' Seminary, an educational institution founded by the (German) Lutheran Synod of Iowa and Other States in 1879. It is now "Old Main" on the campus of Wartburg College.

The building is three stories high on a raised stone foundation, 60' (5 bays) wide and 40' (four bays) deep. 2/2 segmentally-arched sash windows have corbelled brick hoods, painted white, and cast-iron sills. Brick used in construction is red-orange, manufactured locally and laid in common bond. The segmentally-arched central entrance has double door and a hooded transom, and is framed by sidelights. The small porch is supported by slender, bracketted wooden posts. Steps and porch foundation are cement block.

The metal-covered hipped roof has six small gabled dormers. Beneath the narrow eaves is a denticular cornice and panelled frieze.

The rectangular plan has rooms arranged around a central hall and staircase. These are for the most part offices and classrooms. The interior is scheduled for extensive remodelling in order to bring the building up to code standards, but the exterior, unaltered from its original state, will be left intact.

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 checked="" 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 1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This structure is the first structure associated with German Lutheran higher education in Iowa, beginning as a small normal school in 1878 and developing over the years into a fully-accredited four-year collegiate institution. Its architecture is typical of the period in which it was constructed, a simple vernacular adaptation of the Italianate with a restrained use of decorative features.

The building was constructed in 1880 for the Wartburg Teachers' Seminary, an educational institution founded by the Lutheran Synod of Iowa and Other States in 1879. Following the earliest tradition of Wartburg (the first Wartburg institution was a normal school established at Saginaw, Michigan in 1852), this school at Waverly was founded to train young men to teach in Lutheran parish schools.

Although a need for such an institution had been recognized by the Synod as early as 1864, action was delayed until the various congregations became too large for their pastors to teach in the church schools and minister to the parishes at the same time. In the late 1870's, G. Grossman (then president of the Synod and later Wartburg's first director) proposed a small normal school, to be held in buildings at the state orphanage at Andrew. The first class opened there in 1878, with six students.

In 1879, the Synod chose Waverly for the permanent home of the Wartburg Teachers' Seminary, and erected the three-story school building the following year. Almost immediately, a program of general studies was added to the normal course, to accommodate areastudents in addition to the future parish school teachers. The building at first housed all functions: a dormitory in the attic, living area in the classrooms when they were not in educational use, housing for the teachers (originally two) on the first floor, and dining/kitchen facilities in the basement.

Beginning in 1885, the curriculum at Wartburg fluctuated accoring to the various purposes assigned to the school by the Synod. In that year, the Wartburg college at Mendota, Ill. was transferred here, to meet "all the needs of the faity of the Synod for higher education"¹. In 1893, the college was removed to Clinton (Ia.) and the Waverly school reverted to its original status as a strictly normal institution. Three years later, a "preparatory department " (corresponding to 7th and 8th grades) and a "proseminary" (originally at Dubuque) were housed here. By 1913, women were admitted to the institution.

See Continuation Sheet

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ottersberg, Gerhard. Wartburg College, 1852-1952: A Centennial History. Waverly, Iowa, 1952.
 "Fiftieth Anniversary, Wartburg Normal College, Waverly, Iowa," (May 28-9, 1929).
 Deindorfer, Johannes. Geschichte der Evangelischen-Lutheranischen Synode von Iowa und anderen Staaten. Chicago: Wartburg Publishing House, 1897.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one (approx. 2400 square feet)
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	5, 4, 2, 4, 2, 5	4, 7, 3, 0, 6, 9, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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: William W. Jellema, President

ORGANIZATION: Wartburg College DATE: _____

STREET & NUMBER: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

CITY OR TOWN: Waverly STATE: Iowa 50677

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: Alvin D. Anderson HS

TITLE: Director, Division of Historic Preservation DATE: 8/3/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: <u>Charles A. [Signature]</u>	DATE: <u>1-28-78</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE: <u>1-17-78</u>

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Wartburg Teachers' Seminary (Old Main) Wartburg College, Waverly, Bremer Co., Iowa

CONTINUATION SHEET

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After the organization of the American Lutheran Synod (which incorporated the Synod of Iowa) in 1930, Wartburg at Waverly was confirmed as the permanent home of the college. Physical expansion (begun in 1888) of the campus has coincided with increased curriculum offerings, particularly in the social sciences. "Old Main" is still the centerpiece of this active institution, and houses the Religion Department.

¹ Ottersberg, p. 46.