

APR 16 1979

HISTORIC NAME: Old Main, Dr. Martin Luther College

COUNTY: Brown

79001208

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: New Ulm

LEGAL DESC.: O.P. Outlot 321 (Portions of three other college buildings are also located on outlot 321. Old Main is at the center of the outlot. This nomination includes only old Main) *see continuation sheet*

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent <u>X</u>	Local _____	Primary <u>Architecture</u>
Structure _____	Good _____	State <u>X</u>	Secondary <u>Religious/Education</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes X No _____ Restricted _____
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No _____
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No _____

PRESENT USE:
College Administration

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1884 ORIGINAL USE: First College Building

ORIGINAL OWNER: Dr. Martin Luther College ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod; 3512 West North Avenue; Milwaukee, Wisc. 53208

ACREAGE: Less than one acre X

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:

UTM REFERENCE:

15 / 382660 / 4906670

FORM PREPARED BY: Dennis Gimmetad

New Ulm Quad.

DATE: January 1979

DESCRIPTION:

Old Main is situated on a blufftop location at the edge of the campus of Dr. Martin Luther College.

The front facade of the mansard-roofed Victorian Gothic building is dominated by a three-story tower at the center and pavilioned, pyramidal-roofed corner sections. First story window units are composed of paired Gothic windows with a three part tracery capped by a uniting arch containing roundels in the tympanium space. This pattern is repeated on the top of the entrance and on the second story of the tower. Other second story windows are simpler arched units with brick relief hood molding. Continuous stone sills extend around both floors. Smaller arched windows in groups of twos and threes are utilized in the several hipped-roofed dormers which pierce the mansard. This window detailing continues around the sides and rear of the building.

A heavy bracketed cornice circles the building above the second story and at the top of the tower. The spire has a square mansard-roofed base with arched ventilators surmounted by an octagonal section and a conical pinnacle. Above the third level windows of the tower a panel contains the construction date and the college name.

The entire structure is of red brick with ornamental buff stone. The red and white scheme of the detailing accentuates the building's Victorian features.

The exterior remains in unaltered condition except for a small entrance area at the ground level of the south side and some modification at the rear. The interior has been remodeled as the building's use has changed.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Dr. Martin Luther College was founded in 1884 as a training institution for ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The College remains in operation today by the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, with primary emphasis on the training of teachers for the parochial schools maintained by the synod.

Old Main was the first building erected on the campus, and has served a variety of functions as the school has expanded. Its Victorian Gothic styling rank the building as one of the outstanding examples of 19th century high-style architecture in the southwestern part of the state.

Old Main is significant as a distinctive area building associated directly with the establishment of a religious educational institution, and as an important example of the Victorian Gothic style in Minnesota.

DEC 26 1979

Old Main, Dr. Martin Luther College (Brown County Multiple Resource Nomination)

Ammended Verbal Boundary Description

November 1979

The easterly 300 feet of the northerly 210 feet of Outlot 321, City of New Ulm, Brown County, Minnesota, except the easterly 180 feet and the northerly 80 feet thereof.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Old Main in Brown County,
Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 79001208

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Brown

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Old Main, Dr. Martin Luther College

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: College Hts.

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

**Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer**

JUN 17 1988

Date