National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only NOV 2 1 1984 received date entered DEC 20 1984

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic	MISSION HOUSE HI	MISSION `HOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT			
and/or common	Lakeland College				
2. Loca		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
street & number	County Trunk M	-		not for publication	
city, town	Town Herman	vicinity of			
state	Wisconsin code	55 county	Sheboygan	code 117	
3. Clas	sification				
Category X district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered N/A	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted X yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial x educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:	
4. Own	er of Proper	ty			
name	Lakeland College	c/o William S. (Hatten, Assitant to	the President	
street & number	P.O. Box 359				
city, town	Sheboygan	vicinity of	state ^{WI}	53082-0359	
5. Loca	ation of Lega	I Descriptio	on		
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc. Sh	eboygan County Cour	rthouse		
street & number	61	5 N. 6th Street			
city, town	Sh	eboygan	state ^{WI}	53085	
6. Repr	esentation i	n Existing S	Surveys		
	in Inventory oric Places	has this pro	perty been determined elig	ible? yesX_ no	
date 1975, 19	84		federalX state	county local	
depository for su	rvey records State His	storical Society of	Wisconsin		
city, town	Madison		state W	VI 53706	

7. Description

Condition	deteriorated	Check one unaltered	Check one Xoriginal site
<u> </u>	ruins	<u>X</u> altered	moved date
fair	unexposed		
2 *			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Mission House Historic District is located on a low rise of land, surrounded by the larger Lakeland College campus and the farms of Town Herman, Sheboygan County. The nearest settlement is the unicorporated village of Franklin, two miles to the southwest. The district fronts on County Trunk M and has a land area of ten acres. The park-like setting contains five buildings and two structures, including large brick academic buildings from the Classic Revival, Late Victorian Gothic, and Colonial Revival periods of construction. Of these buildings and structures four are pivotal, two are contributing, and one non-contributing. Pivotal buildings were so classified by their architectural integrity and prominent role during the period of significance. Contributing buildings were determined by their complimentary scale and historic use. Non-contributing buildings were identified by incompatible building materials and contemporary construction.

The district is distinguished from the adjacent residences and contemporary academic buildings by its location. Situated on a slight hill, the clustered buildings are surrounded by trees, making a visible unit from a distance and at close inspection. Bounded on the east by County Trunk M, the district is boardered by a residence, pond, and dormitories on the south; a student union and playing fields on the west; and dormitories, residences, and a creek on the north. These northern residences are collectively known as "Profville" and consist of nine older frame buildings removed from the district during the period of significance or brought to this location from other parts of the township. They are excluded from the district due to loss of integrity and physical seperation from the principal buildings of the district.

The following inventory lists each building in the district and is followed by a brief description of each pivotal element. (P=Pivotal; C=Contributing; N=Non-contributing; H=Historically Significant; A=Architecturally Significant)

INVENTORY

Historic Name	Current Name	Classification
Dr. J. M. G. Darms Residence	Darms Hall	P–H
Recitation Hall	Old Main	P-H
Pumphouse	Pumphouse	С
Jubilee Dormitory	Jubilee Hall	P-H
	Dr. J. M. G. Darms Residence Recitation Hall Pumphouse	Dr. J. M. G. Darms Darms Hall Residence Recitation Hall Old Main Pumphouse Pumphouse

5	Community Memorial Library	Community Memorial Library	С
6	Belltower	Belltower	N
7	Founders' Gymnasium and Auditorium	Founders' Auditorium	P-H

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DESCRIPTION OF PIVOTAL BUILDINGS

Pivotal Building #1: Dr. J. M. G. Darms Residence

The Dr. J. M. G. Darms Residence is a two-story red brick Colonial Revival house. The gabled roof is composition, the brick bond is English, and the foundations are concrete. The fenestration is formally balanced, but varying with each floor. Three pedimented dormers project from the roof on the front facade. The cornice is denticulated, the windows are shuttered on both floors, and the front entry porch is barrel-vaulted. A one-story sun room is attached to the south facade and is one of five rooms on the first floor converted to offices. The residence was designed by Edgar A. Stubenrauch and completed in 1924. Most interior walls have been covered with plywood paneling.

Pivotal Building #2: <u>Recitation Hall</u>

Recitation Hall is a two-story yellow-brick Late Victorian Gothic school building. Its mansard roof is slate, the brick bond is stretcher, and the foundations are quarry-cut ashlar limestone. The fenestration is formally balanced with coupled windows aligned on each floor. The gabled dormers incorporate king post and collar brace trim, the cornice is bracketed, and each floor has a lintel-level belt course of pattern brickwork. The front facade is divided by a four-story rectangular tower, wooden above the second floor with belt course molding, louvered belfry, and pavillion roof. The main entrance has been brought down to ground level, and all windows have been partially closed by metal panels. These regretable alterations preclude architectural significance. The interior consists of 10 original classrooms with wainscotting, bull's-eye framing, and transoms in the central hall. The main staircase retains its turned balusters and octagonal newel and support posts. The building was designed by Charles Hilpertshauser and was completed in 1888.² Alterations to the building took place in the 1960's.

Pivotal Building #4: Jubilee Dormitory

Jubilee Dormitory is a three-story yellow brick Classic Revival residence hall. The hipped roof is composition, the brick bond is stretcher, and the foundations are dressed ashlar brownstone. The extensive fenestration is formally balanced and aligned on each floor. A large projecting cross gable defines the central entrance pavillion and suggests a giant portico through its pedimented gable, brownstone frieze and capitals, and brick pilasters. The original plans included 71 dorm rooms, apartments for the housefather, and a large basement dining room. Many of these rooms have been adapted to office use, but the dining room remains largely unaltered and includes original arts and crafts furnishings. Jubilee Dormitory was constructed in 1917 under the supervision of J. Fredrick Vitz.



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Pivotal Building #7: Founders' Gymnasium and Auditorium

The Founders' Gymnasium and Auditorium is a large one-story orange brick gymnasium. The gabled roof is composition, the brick bond is American, and the foundations are concrete. The fenestration of the north and south facades consist of five large stilted arch windows aligned with ten coupled basement windows. The stilted arch windows are multi-paned with blue-green glass and fanlight panes in the arch. A broad entrance pavillion projects from the east facade with two entries surmounted by round arch transoms with fanlight panes. Three stilted arch windows are grouped in the gable end of the main building east facade; a closed bull's eye window is in the gable end of the entrance pavillion. The interior consists of a single large room of glazed tile with a small stage to the rear of the room. Lockers₄ are in the basement. The building was designed by W. C. Weeks and was completed in 1932.

Also included in the district is a concrete pumphouse with interior benches and a pavillion roof (Contributing Structure #3),

, and a two-story orange brick library (Contributing Building #5). Called Community Memorial Library, this building was constructed in 1939 by Edgar Stubenrauch and was expanded in 1981; a two-story entrance tower with a low-pitched roof and carved stone portal suggest a Mediterranian influence. Non-contributing Structure #6 is an open belltower constructed of wooden beams in the 1960's. Excluded from the district is a three-story yellow brick dormitory with a flat roof. Called Krueger Hall, it was constructed in 1957 and is just outside the northern boundary.

FOOTNOTES

¹Edgar A. Stubenrauch, "Residence for Prof. J. Darms," 1924. Lakeland College.
²Jaberg, <u>A History of Mission House-Lakeland</u>, p. 94.
³<u>Ibid</u>., p. 112.

⁴<u>Ibid</u>., p. 136.

⁵Edgar A. Stubenrauch, "Library Building for Mission House College," 1939. Lakeland College.

⁶Interview with Dr. Catherine Krueger; June 29, 1984.

[/]Jaberg, <u>A History of Mission House-Lakeland</u>, p. 172.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—C		reX. religion
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric		science
1400–1499	archeology-historic		sculpture
1500–1599	agriculture		social/
1600–1699	X architecture		humanitarian
1700–1799	art		theater
X 1800–1899	commerce		transportation
X 1900–19 <i>3</i> 4	communications		other (specify)
Specific dates	PERIOD-OF-SIGNIFICAN 1879-1934	ICE Builder Architect See Text	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mission House Historic District contains the principal academic buildings of the Mission House Seminary and College. The ten acre park-like setting contains seven buildings and two related structures, including prominent brick buildings from the Classic Revival, Late Victorian Gothic, and Colonial Revival periods of construction. The district is historically significant as the product of the educational fervor of a Sheboygan colony of Lippe-Detmold immigrants and the German constituency of the Reformed Church of America. The district also includes architecturally significant structures, designed by regional architects and reflecting the growth and development of the institution. As a college and seminary serving students throughout Wisconsin and the United States, the district is designated as being of state significance.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

In 1847 a party of Lippe-Detmold immigrants left Germany and settled twelve miles northwest of Sheboygan. A second wave of immigrants arrived a few years later, and with time a sawmill, gristmill, blacksmith shop, and hotel were constructed along the banks of the Sheboygan River. This early milling center served the surrounding farmland and was called Lippers Mills, platted as Franklin in 1856. As the colony prospered, efforts were made to reconstruct the familiar parish social order of the German Reformed Church. The rapid growth of local congregations prompted the Reformed Church of America to send German emissaries to Franklin, to aid in the formation of a classis incorporating the congregations of Sheboygan, Manitowoc, and Milwaukee Counties. Once established, this local level of church government saw its principal task as missionary work among fellow Germans in those parts of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa where churches were yet to be formed.

Stirred by extraordinary missionary zeal, the classis formed a German mission training institute in 1860. Its single purpose was to train missionary preachers suitable to German Reformed tastes and customs. Called "Missionhaus," it was modeled after German institutions in Barmen and Basel. Watertown and Mayville were considered as possible locations, but Franklin in Town Herman was chosen as it promised better prospects of congregational support. Beginning with four students and one professor, Mission House offered training in the essentials of biblical faith and the practical aspects of ministry. In 1862 a simple frame building was constructed north of Franklin with the financial support of the Lippe-Detmold colony.

Mission House gained broader support and purpose in 1866 through the formation of the German Synod of the Northwest. This new body of regional church government united each German classis to further the cause of home missions among fellow countrymen, and to aid in the establishment of a German-language college. Other church-supported seminaries and colleges were located in Pennsylvania and Ohio, but these failed to meet the language and cultural needs of the German community. Incorporated in 1867, Mission House

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Jaberg, Eugene C. <u>A History of Mission House-Lakeland</u>. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Christian Education Press, 1962.
Ziller, Clark. <u>History of Sheboygan county, Wisconsin</u>. Chicago, Illinois. S. J. Clark Publishing Company, 1912.

10. Geographical Data

	f nominated proper le name <u>Frankli</u> rences		Quadrangle scale $1:24,000$			
A <u>1,6</u> Zone	421911810 Easting	4 8 5 4 5 0 0 Northing	B <u>1</u> 6 Zone	4 2 9 1 8 0 Easting	4 <u> 8 5 4 3 6 0</u> Northing	
c 1 ₁ 6	421901610	4 8 5 4 3 6 0	D 16	4 2 19 0 16 0	4 B 5 A 4 1 D	
E 1.6	4 2 8 9 6 0	4 18 5 14 4 1 0	F <u>1</u> 6	4 2 8 9160	48545180	
G <u>1</u> 6	4 2 9 0 2 0	418 514 51710	н <u>1₁₆</u>	4 2 19 0 12 10	4 18 5 14 5 10 10	

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Item 8, p. 4.

List all states	and counties for	properties over	rlapping state	or county bour	ndaries
state N/A		code	county	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	code
state		code	county		code
11. For	m Prepa	red By			
name/title Pet	er J. Adams an	d Jeffrey H.	Mulvey		
organization	eter James Ada	ms & Associa	ites	date July	y 1, 1984
street & number	537 E. Wisc	onsin Avenue		telephone	(414) 722-8963
city or town	Neenah			state WI	54956
665), I hereby noi	d State Historic Pres	for inclusion in	the National Reg the National Pa	gister and certify tk Service.	ation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– that it has been evaluated
State Historic Pre	eservation Officer si	gnature f	4-65-	an	
	or of Historic	Preservation	n		date November 6, 1984
In X	only rtify that this proper Uloren Sy National Register	- ,	Entered	ister in the Register	date 12-20-84
Attest:					date
Chief of Regi	stration				

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was identified as a synod priority project along with a publishing house in Cleveland, Ohio and an orphanage in Fort Wayne, Indiana.⁴ In 1875 the synod increased school funding and made the theology department a theological seminary. In 1879 the prepartory department was similarly raised to a college.

In less than twenty years Mission House had evolved from the project of a single classis to a full synodical seminary and college. By 1879 there were sixty-four students and nine professors utilizing four main buildings, two teachers residences, a barn, a well, and a baking house. The college offered German, English, world history, science, math, and other basic courses, while the seminary offered Greek, Hebrew, dogmatics, congregation administration, and the like. All classes were conducted in German and tuition was free if the student worked for the church upon graduation. By 1885 Mission House had sent more than 150 ministers, missionaries, and parochial school teachers into the service of the church. An additional hundred young men had received part or all of their education there.

In 1888 the German Synod of the East joined in the support and management of Mission House, followed by the German Synod of the Southwest in 1914. Both new synods provided an infusion of funds which precipitated major building projects. Enrollment grew from eighty-five students in 1888 to one hundred twenty-four in 1911, including students from fourteen states, Canada, Germany, and Switzerland.⁶ Through the support of these synods Mission House became the single educational institution supported by the entire German constituency of the Reformed Church. As such, the school also began to reflect German assimilation into American culture. The college developed a full liberal arts program, women were allowed to enroll, and English was accepted into the college classrooms. In 1919 English devotional services were instituted, followed by seminary instruction in The ensuing years brought other trappings of "American" institutions including 1923. yearbooks, fraternities, and diplomas. These changes and others marked a decline in the missionary zeal and ethnic conciousness of the German synods supporting Mission House. Nevertheless, ties with the Lippe-Detmold colony remained strong enough to foil numerous attempts to relocate the institution.

In 1934 the Reformed Church of America merged with the Evangelical Synod of North America, and in the reorganization Mission House came under the control of the General Synod, bringing to an end its exclusive ethnic associations. In 1956 the seminary and college were separated, the latter remaining on the Mission House campus as Lakeland College.

RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE

Pivotal elements in the Mission House Historic District were constructed during the period in which the school was supported by the German synods of the Reformed Church of America. The RP' study unit on the Reformed Church in Wisconsin identifies Mission House as the essential project of the German contingent.

Pivotal Building #1: Dr. J. M. G. Darms Residence

The Dr. J. M. G. Darms Residence is a red brick Colonial Revival residence, designed by

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Edgar A. Stubenrauch of Sheboygan and constructed in 1924.⁸ It was built with private funds for Mission House president Dr. J. M. G. Darms, whose wife was reluctant to move from the east. Darms, the first president not elected from the faculty, was also vicepresident of the General Synod, vicepresident of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, secretary of the Board of Christian Education, and was a member of the Board of Foreign Missions. Darms

pursued a seven-year course of greater liberalism in Mission House administration and retired in 1930. The residence, too large for subsequent presidents, was converted to a women's dormitory in 1937 and to administrative offices in1952.⁷ It is currently unoccupied.

Pivotal Building #2: Recitation Hall

Recitation Hall is a vellow brick Late Victorian Gothic school building. Also known as "Old Main," it was designed by Charles Hilpertshauser, Sheboygan and was completed in 1888 by the Chilton contracting firm of Dorschel and Schultz. It was the first brick building on campus and housed classrooms, an assembly hall, the library, chapel, and dormitory facilities. Completed at a cost of \$14,625, the building was made possible by the financial support of the German Synod of the East and a student body contribution of 15,000 bricks. Its construction accomodated the growth of enrollment from 85 students in 1888 to 107 in 1894. Regretable alterations to the windows diminish the architectural significance of this otherwise fine example of the Late Victorian Gothic period of construction. Its classrooms are still in use, while the third floor dorm rooms have been converted to faculty offices.

Pivotal Building #4: Jubilee Dormitory

Jubilee Dormitory is a yellow brick Classic Revival residence hall, constructed under the supervision of architect J. Fredrick Vitz.¹² Completed in 1918, it housed a dining 13 hall, student union, 71 dorm rooms, and an apartment for the housefather and his family. Also included in this building was the central heating plant and the generator for the campus. Students as well as members of the Lippe-Detmold colony participated in the actual construction, the latter hauling cement, tile, and brick by horse teams from as Financed in part by the Synod of the Southwest, Jubilee far away as Elkhart Lake. Dormitory was built to better accomodate a growing student body and to commemorate the institution's fiftieth anniversary. Jubilee Dormitory radically altered the appearance of Mission House, replacing three of the original four frame buildings constructed on campus. It is currently used as the administration building.

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Pivotal Building #7: Founders' Gymnasium and Auditorium

Founders' Gymnasium and Auditorium is an orange brick building designed by W. C. Weeks and constructed in 1932.¹⁵ It replaced an old frame church building, donated by one of the Lippe-Detmold congregations for athletic purposes and moved on campus in 1916. The present building was completed at a cost of \$33,000 and helped to promote the intercollegiate sports program, including the formation of a football team in 1934.¹⁶ Used for concerts, church services, and commencements, Founders' Gymnasium and Auditorium and its functions were part of the "Americanization" of Mission House. It is now used as an auditorium.

The district also includes two contributing buildings. Contributing Building #5 was built in 1939 as a library and administration hall, called Community Memorial Library. While past the period of significance, the library is compatible in scale and form, 17 and was designed by Edgar A. Stubenrauch who designed another building in the district.¹⁷ The building is also associated with the Lippe-Detmold colony through a local fund-raising effort to provide Mission House with a new library.

Other structures in the district include a concrete pumphouse (Contributing Structure #3), marking the location of the first Mission House building, and a small wooden belltower (Non-contributing Structure #6) of recent construction.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Several buildings within the district are also architecturally significant as the product of noted regional architects and as examples of three periods of academic construction.

Recitation Hall (Pivotal Building #2) is a fine example of the Late Victorian Gothic period of construction and is the product of Sheboygan architect Charles Hilpertshauser. Hilpertshauser, a native of Town Herman, designed Villa Laun (NRHP 1982), and his churches were subject to a thematic survey by division staff. An uncommon period of Wisconsin construction, Late Victorian Gothic heralded for Mission House the end of its worst financial austerity. Jubilee Dormitory (Pivotal Building #4) is a modest yet commanding building in the Neo-Classic mode, the work of Mission House alumnus J. Fredrick Vitz. Its size speaks to the growth of Mission House, while its subtle classicism echos the institution's cautious acceptance of collegiate conventions. The Dr. J. M. G. Darms Residence (Pivotal Building #1) was designed by Sheboygan architect Edgar A. Stubenrauch and is exemplary of Colonial Period design. The residence dramatically evinces the "Americanization" of Mission House. Stubenrauch also designed the Waushara County Courthouse (NRHP 1982), Community Memorial Library (Contributing Building #5), and a number of schools, churches, and hospitals throughout the state. Also worthy of mention is Founders' Gymnasium and Auditorium (Contributing Building #7), designed by W. C. Weeks. Weeks designed the Sheboygan County Courthouse

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(NRHP 1982) and was the second of three generations of Sheboygan architects.

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION/JUSTIFICATION

The Mission House Historic District can be described as follows: beginning at the south entrance on County Trunk M west 400 feet along the midpoint of South Road; then north 200 feet through the southern parking lot; then west 300 feet; then north to the midpoint of North Road; then east along the midpoint of North Road 200 feet; then south 150 feet along the principal north-south walk; then east to the midpoint of County Trunk M via the north entrance; then south 500 feet along the midpoint of County Trunk M to the point of beginning. The boundaries of the district were determined by the change in character of the buildings to the south and west; by the creek and new construction to the north; and by County Trunk M to the east. The northern boundary deviates from the North Road to specifical omit Krueger Hall, a non-contributing building of contemporary construction. The district includes all buildings associated with Mission House which retain integrity of site and form, dating to the end of the period of significance.

ARCHEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

No archeological sites in section 20 of Town Herman are recorded in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin files. A two-acre area southwest of the district was subjected to an intensive survey in 1980, but prehistoric or historic sites were not found. The rest of Section 20 has not been subjected to an intensive archeological survey.

PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES

In 1983 Sheboygan County Landmarks, LTD designated two buildings within the district as county landmarks: Recitation Hall (Pivotal Building #2), and Jubilee Dormitory (Pivotal Building #4). An additional designation commemorates the site of the first Mission House building (Contributing Structure #3). Lakeland College officials are pursuing the district nomination to aid in their development plans, publicity and fund-raising efforts.





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FOOTNOTES

¹Buchen, Gustave W. Historic Sheboygan County. Private, 1944. P. 336. ²Jaberg, History of Mission H<u>ouse-Lakeland</u>, p. 22. ³Ibid., p.37. ⁴Ibid., p. 62. Ibid., p. 84. ⁶Ibid., p. 111. ⁷Ibid., p. 114. ⁸Eddar A. Stubenrauch. "Residence for Prof. J. Darms," plans dated 1924, Lakeland College. ⁹Jaberg, A History of Mission <u>House-Lakeland</u>, p.171. ¹⁰Ibid., p. 94. ¹¹Ibid., p. 93. ¹²Ibid., p. 112. ¹³J. Fredrick Vitz, "Dormitory Building," undated plans, Lakeland College. ¹⁴Jaberg, A History of Mission House-Lakeland, p.112. ¹⁵Ibid., p. 136. ¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷Edgar A. Stubenrauch, "Library Building," plans dated 1939, Lakeland College.
²⁰Jaberg, A History of Mission House-Lakeland, p. 172.



