

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

For NPS use only
received JUN 12
date entered

1. Name

historic Lathrop Hall

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 1050 University Avenue, University of Wisconsin Campus not for publication

city, town Madison vicinity of congressional district

state Wisconsin code 55 county Dane code 025

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
district	X public	X occupied	agriculture
building(s)	private	unoccupied	museum
structure	both	work in progress	commercial
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	X educational
object	In process	yes: restricted	entertainment
	being considered	X yes: unrestricted	government
	X N/A	no	industrial
			military
			other:

4. Owner of Property

name University of Wisconsin Board of Regents

street & number 1860 Van Hise Hall

city, town Madison vicinity of state WI

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Dane County Courthouse

street & number 201 Monona Avenue

city, town Madison state WI

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Madison Campus Architecture, Historical and Archaeological Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Dept. of Planning and Construction, University of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state WI

continued

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Lathrop Hall, located at 1050 University Avenue and overlooking the street from its perch on the south side of Observatory Hill, is a Renaissance Revival building constructed of coursed rock-faced sandstone blocks set on a limestone and poured concrete foundation. The plan consists of a central two-story section flanked on either end by a square five-story section. The symmetrical exterior features a rusticated raised basement and piano nobile, a string course incised with a Greek fret separating the piano nobile from the upper stories, a wood cornice enriched with a carved molding and modillion blocks, a corona incised with a Greek fret, and a wide-eaved hipped red tile roof. A stone chimney rises from the roof on each of the east and west facades. The fenestration pattern consists of a series of bays, each bay made up of a pair of double-hung sash windows at the basement and first floors, surmounted by a tall round-headed multi-paned window recessed in a round stone arch with a scrolled keystone. The east and west facades have three of these bays, each surmounted by a roman window in the frieze. At basement level on the east facade there is a double entrance door in the central bay. The south (main) facade is symmetrical about the main entrance, which is reached by an exterior concrete double stair from the sidewalk below. The main entrance, with double entrance doors surmounted by a single-paned transom painted "LATHROP," is framed in a heavy shouldered architrave which splays at the bottom. Above, a pair of french doors in a pedimented architrave open onto a shallow stone balcony with an iron balustrade, and are surmounted by a tall round-headed multi-paned window. On either side of the main entrance are three bays of the basic fenestration pattern. On the south facade of both five-story sections, a pair of french doors in a pedimented architrave at the second story level opens onto a stone balcony, are surmounted by a tall, round-headed window, and flanked by small elliptical windows. Regularly spaced double-hung sash appear in the basement and piano nobile. The north facade mirrors the south.

Lathrop Hall was built for the Department of Physical Training for Women. The Department of Home Economics shared the building during the first few years following its completion. The floor plan is basically dumbbell-shaped, with a central corridor. The interior was remodeled in 1930 and again in 1973.¹ Modern lighting and resilient floor tiles have been installed throughout. Each of the main entrances on the north and south facades opens into a vestibule with wainscoting, flooring and a short flight of steps of gray marble. The walls and ceilings in the vestibules, as in the rest of the building, are finished with plaster. On either side of the north vestibule a wood open newel staircase with turned balusters, paneled newel posts, and a paneled closed string, turns into a double stair. West of the vestibule a single flight of concrete steps with a raised floral pattern on the ceiling descends to the basement, which appears to have been remodeled extensively. There is a swimming pool and an elevator in the west end, while locker rooms account for most of the rest of the basement area. At either end of the building, south of the corridor and located in an enclosed stairhall, is a wood open newel staircase with turned balusters, paneled newel posts, and a paneled closed string. There is wood wainscoting and a marble baseboard in the corridor on the piano nobile. Above, egg-and-dart, and bead-and-reel ceiling moldings are surmounted by dentils and a raised floral motif. At either end of the corridor is a dance studio; between is a series of small rooms. On the second floor a three-story gymnasium extending the full width of the central section separates the flanking sections. The gymnasium has wood flooring and wainscoting; an oval wood running track is suspended above at the fourth

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story level. On the east end of the second floor is a dance studio; there are dressing rooms on the west end. Offices and classrooms are located in the west section of the third floor, and there is a small gymnasium in the east section. The fourth floor contains classrooms and offices, and on the fifth floor there are classrooms and a studio in each of the east and west sections.

When Lathrop Hall was opened in 1910, it boasted four bowling alleys, a cafeteria, a laundry, a theater, a three-story gymnasium with running track, a swimming pool, dressing rooms equipped with lockers and showers, classrooms, and offices for the faculty and the Y.W.C.A. The exterior of Lathrop Hall is unaltered, and retains its architectural integrity. On the interior, some areas have been remodeled, but much of the building's original appearance remains. The Department of Dance and a part of the Department of Physical Education presently occupy Lathrop Hall.

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/						
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian						
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation						
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Dance						

Specific dates 1908–1910²²

Builder/Architect

(Warren Powers) Laird and (Paul Philippe) Cret,²² Arthur Peabody

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Period of Significance: 1910–1935

Lathrop Hall is of national significance in the areas of physical education and dance. Built for the Department of Physical Training for Women, Lathrop Hall was the site of the founding of the Athletic Conference of American College Women, today the premier organization in the nation governing intramural sports for college women. In addition, the first dance major established in the United States was offered at the University of Wisconsin, its courses conducted in Lathrop Hall. A prime example of the Renaissance Revival style, designed by nationally prominent architects Warren Powers Laird and Paul Philippe Cret, Lathrop Hall is also of local architectural significance.

Physical Education and Dance

Early college physical education programs consisted mainly of gymnastics, occasionally relieved by games.¹ The programs were inspired by the arrival of German immigrants at mid-century, who founded Turnverein (gymnastics centers) nationwide and brought with them a growing awareness of health and hygiene, and a belief that strong bodies promoted well-balanced minds.

Following the Civil War, physical education increasingly became an accepted part of college curriculum. Higher education for women, however, continued to be opposed by many on the grounds that a woman's health was too delicate to withstand the rigors of academic life. In response, as colleges and universities opened their doors to coeducation in the 1870's and 1880's, special courses in physical education were developed for the female students.

During the nineteenth century, physical education programs for both men and women were drawn from the German and Swedish gymnastics systems, and from the games playing tradition of the English public schools. With the turn of the century, athletics and dance began to be incorporated into the curriculum. Dance gradually became solidly entrenched,⁴ particularly in the departments of physical education for women.

The University of Wisconsin began offering courses in physical education in 1889,⁵ establishing the department of Physical Training for Men in 1890.⁶ Nine years later, the Department of Physical Training for Women was organized. First located in "Ladies Hall," the women's dormitory, the department moved into Lathrop Hall in 1910.⁸ Lathrop Hall was named in honor of John Hiram Lathrop (1799–1866), first chancellor of the University, who served from 1848 until 1858.⁹ In 1912 Blanche M. Trilling (1876–1964) was hired as Director of the Women's Gymnasium and chair of the Department of Physical Training for Women.¹⁰ At that time there were eight faculty in the department. Trilling, a graduate of the Boston Normal School of Gymnastics, directed the department

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Cox, Patti Nestor. "The Development of Modern Dance in Higher Education With an Emphasis on the Contributions and Influences of Margaret H'Doubler." M.A. Thesis, San Jose State University, 1977.
- Halsey, Elizabeth. Women in Physical Education. NY: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1961.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Madison West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 6	3 0 4 3 9 0	4 7 7 1 5 8 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	[] [] [] [] [] [] []	[] [] [] [] [] [] []	[] [] [] [] [] [] []
E	[] [] [] [] [] [] []	[] [] [] [] [] [] []	[] [] [] [] [] [] []
G	[] [] [] [] [] [] []	[] [] [] [] [] [] []	[] [] [] [] [] [] []

B	[] [] [] [] [] [] []	[] [] [] [] [] [] []	[] [] [] [] [] [] []
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	[] [] [] [] [] [] []	[] [] [] [] [] [] []	[] [] [] [] [] [] []
F	[] [] [] [] [] [] []	[] [] [] [] [] [] []	[] [] [] [] [] [] []
H	[] [] [] [] [] [] []	[] [] [] [] [] [] []	[] [] [] [] [] [] []

Verbal boundary description and justification Part of the SW 1/4, Section 15, Township 7N, Range 9E, City of Madison, Wisconsin. A parcel of land on University Avenue, Beginning at a point 463' west of the northwest curb at the intersection of Park Street and University Avenue. Proceed 170' N, 275' W, 170's, and 275' east to point of origin.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title E. L. Miller, Research Technician

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date

street & number 816 State Street telephone 262-2971

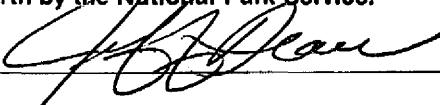
city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

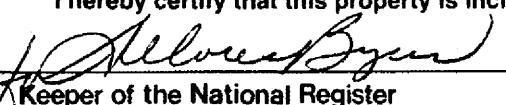
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title DIRECTOR OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION date May 20, 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

 Entered in the
National Register

date

7-11-85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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for thirty-six years. Her greatest contribution was the founding, at the University of Wisconsin in 1917, of the Athletic Conference of American College Women (ACACW).¹¹ During the early years of the twentieth century, college sport for women was influenced and regulated by a number of organizations, the most prominent of which was the ACACW. Envisioned at first as a midwestern organization, it quickly became a national one, growing from a charter membership of twenty-three colleges and universities to a membership of some 200 today.¹² Begun to promote intramural women's athletics, it is today the national governing body of intramural sports for college women.¹³ Since 1957 it has been known as College Women in Sports (CWS). Trilling also served on several national advisory committees dealing with physical education and recreation during her lifetime. She retired from the university in 1948.¹⁴

In 1915 Trilling sent assistant professor Margaret H'Doubler (1889-1982) to New York to survey the current trends in dance in order to bring back a form of sufficient educational merit for inclusion in the university curriculum.¹⁵ At the time a reaction against formal dance was underway, resulting in a movement favoring dance based on the laws of natural motion and rhythm, as exemplified by such innovators as Isadora Duncan, Ruth St. Denis, and Ted Shawn. In 1917 H'Doubler returned to Wisconsin to undertake a new kind of dance instruction which was to some extent based on the natural and creative dance movement, but was mostly her own concept.¹⁶ Breaking with former techniques, she developed "fundamentals" of dancing as basic teaching forms. H'Doubler's dance philosophy viewed the body as the instrument of dance, and movement the artistic medium of dance with which to express the inner state. H'Doubler's form of dance gradually blended into modern dance. Her work won wide acclaim and her philosophy was nationally influential, determining the direction of dance education through to the present day. Born Margaret Newell Hougen-Doubler in Kansas, she graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1910, and upon graduation was offered an assistant professorship in the Department of Physical Training for Women.¹⁷ In 1918 she founded "Orchesis," a university dance performance group, the first of its kind in the United States.¹⁸ H'Doubler established the first comprehensive dance curriculum at an American university at the University of Wisconsin in 1921, and in 1926 her proposal for the organization of a major in dance at the University of Wisconsin was accepted, the first such major in the nation.¹⁹ The recipient of numerous awards and honors, the author of many books and articles, Margaret H'Doubler was to dance education what Martha Graham was to dance performance.²⁰ H'Doubler's students went on to form dance departments at colleges and universities all over the country. Her writings, spanning over half-a-century, were always timely, exerting a major influence on dance education over many decades, and facilitating the acceptance of dance in the curriculum of higher education. H'Doubler retired from the university in 1954, but continued to write and teach up until the time of her death. Her most popular works were The Dance and Its Place in Education (1925), and Dance: A Creative Art Experience (1940).²¹ H'Doubler's teaching theories, techniques, and philosophy of dance resulted in a blend of aesthetics and science which have successfully withstood the passage of time. Although formulated in the early decades of the twentieth century, many of her fundamentals can be found in the techniques taught in college dance departments all over the country today.

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Architecture

Lathrop Hall, designed by architects Warren Powers Laird and Paul Philippe Cret and built 1908-1910,²² is a prime example of the Renaissance Revival style. The studied formalism and symmetrical composition incorporates such elements as architrave-framed doors supporting pediments and/or entablatures, and small square windows in the topmost story, exemplifying the Renaissance Revival style. Although one of many in that style on the Madison campus, it is one of the finest examples, and one of the few whose architectural integrity is uncompromised by exterior alteration.

Warren Powers Laird and Paul Phillippe Cret, both professors in the School of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, served together as consultants to many states, cities and private parties during the early twentieth century.²³ Laird (1851-1941) was born in Minnesota and educated at Cornell University. After a period of supplementary training with various firms in Boston and New York, Laird attended an atelier in Paris. In 1891 Laird assumed directorship of the newly established School of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, becoming a leading figure in architectural education in the United States.²⁴ Cret (1876-1945), was born in Lyons, France, studied architecture at the Ecole des Beaux Arts and accepted a position as assistant professor of design at the University of Pennsylvania in 1903. Cret was promoted to full professor in 1907, at which time he retired from active participation in academia to initiate his architectural career, although he maintained his association with the University of Pennsylvania until 1937.²⁵ Laird and Cret are associated with a number of buildings on the University of Wisconsin Madison campus, including the Central Heating Station (1908), the Stock Pavilion (1908), Lathrop Hall (1910), the Agricultural Chemistry building (1912), the Home Economics building (1913), Wisconsin high School (1914), and Sterling Hall (1916).²⁶ Cret was an internationally prominent architect who won wide recognition during his professional career. His most notable designs include the Pan American Union building (1907-1910), designed with Albert Kelsey and located in Washington, D.C.; the Detroit Institute of Fine Arts (1921), a collaboration with Zantziger, Borie and Medary; and the Folger Shakespeare Memorial Library (1932), also located in the nation's capital.²⁷

Additional History background:

When Lathrop Hall opened in 1910 it also served the campus' female student population as a major meeting center and student "union" facility. A separate men's union had been established on campus in the local YMCA in 1907, "... but prior to 1910 women students enjoyed very restricted facilities with little opportunity for physical training or private social and club facilities on campus."²⁸ Before the completion of Lathrop Hall, the women students had only old Chadbourne Hall to call their own; a 1901 building which served mostly for rooming and boarding space. Lathrop Hall provided a springboard for many of the advances by campus women during the twentieth century. Nicknamed "Eve Hall" for ridicule, the new Lathrop Hall contained numerous facilities to further the goal of self-development and the social service potential of women during Wisconsin's progressive period. In addition to the dean of women's office, Lathrop held club rooms, social lounges and kitchens, girls' swimming pool, gymnasium, and lockers, a dining hall and cafeteria, reading rooms and home economics laboratories.²⁸ Even after the present Memorial Union building was completed (1929) and several rooms were set aside for use as women's lounges, Lathrop Hall remained an important asset for female students on campus.

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- 1 Elizabeth Halsey, Women In Physical Education, (NY: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1961), p. 138.
2 Ibid., p. 128.
3 Ibid., pp. 132-136.
4 Emmett A. Rice, John L. Hutchinson and Mabel Lee, A Brief History of Physical Education, (NY: Ronald Press Co., 1969), p. 245.
5 University of Wisconsin Archives, box 11, file 3.
6 Rice, op.cit., p. 210.
7 Ibid., p. 213.
8 Gordon D. Orr, ed., "Perspectives of a University," (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin, 1978), k p. 91.
9 Wisconsin Necrology, 2:95.
10 University of Wisconsin Archives, box 11, file 5.
11 Mabel Lee, A History of Physical Education and Sports in the U.S.A., (NY: John Wiley and Sons, 1983), p. 147.
12 Ibid.
13 Ibid., p. 314.
14 Ibid., p. 249.
15 Ruth June Rose, "The Wisconsin Dance Idea," (B.A. thesis, University of Wisconsin, 1950), p. 1.
16 Patti Nestor Cox, "The Development of Modern Dance in Higher Education with an Emphasis on the Contributions and Influences of Margaret H'Doubler," (M.A. thesis, San Jose State University, 1977), p. 72.
17 Ibid., p. 71
18 Ibid., p. 72.
19 Ibid.
20 Ibid., p. 76.
21 Ibid., p. 79.
22 Alden Aust, "A Tabular History of the Buildings of the University of Wisconsin," (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin, 1937), p. 3.
23 Henry Withey and Elsie R. Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased), (Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, 1970), p. 360.
24 Ibid.
25 Ibid., p. 149.
26 Ibid., p. 149.
27 Aust, op.cit., pp. 2-3.
28 Withey and Withey, op. cit., p. 149.
29 Langill, Ellen D., "Women at Wisconsin: 1909-1939", They Came to Learn, They Came to Teach, They Came to Stay. ed. Audrey Roberts, (Office of Women, University of Wisconsin Madison, 1980) pp. 11-12.

#6. Representation in Existing Surveys (contin.)

Title: Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

Determined eligible: no

Date: 1984

State Survey

Depository: State Historical Society of Wisconsin
816 State St.
Madison, WI 53706

LATHROP HALL
1050 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MADISON, WISCONSIN
SCALE: 1 INCH = 100 FEET

