

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FINAL DRAFT

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**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
Blanchard Hall

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Wheaton College campus

CITY, TOWN
Wheaton

STATE
Illinois

VICINITY OF
CODE 12

COUNTY
DuPage

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
14

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CODE 043

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Wheaton College

STREET & NUMBER
Seminary and Washington Streets

CITY, TOWN
Wheaton

STATE
Illinois

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
DuPage County Courthouse--New Building

STREET & NUMBER
421 N. County Farm Road

CITY, TOWN
Wheaton

STATE
Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey
Illinois Historic Structures Survey

DATE
August, 1974
April, 1975

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Illinois Department of Conservation

CITY, TOWN
Springfield

STATE
Illinois

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

256

179

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Blanchard Hall is the main building of Wheaton College, a small private Christian liberal arts college in Wheaton, Illinois. The building is constructed of rough-faced Joliet limestone blocks and although at a casual glance looks as if it were built at one time, closer examination reveals that it was built over a span of many years. One can identify five distinct stages of building indicating that although style and materials are in keeping with each other, Blanchard Hall is in fact a collection of additions and alterations. Today the building is a large structure with a center tower approximately 80 feet tall, and two wings, the western wing having three stories, and the eastern wing having four. The tower appears to be octagonal, but in fact is five-sided, and flattened to the rear. The wings each terminate in symmetrical additions with saddleback roofs and false castellated and arched cornices. The bays in the building are emphasized with limestone quoins, and the roofline is marked by a row of stone battlements. Limestone is used for window sills and arches (which differ in shape and proportion depending on date of construction) and wood is used in the roof brackets visible on the center section behind the tower. The homogeneity of the structure is largely due to the "dream" that J. Blanchard, first president of Wheaton College, had of the finished building. While no plans were ever drawn, Blanchard's conception of the finished college building was concretely presented as the letterhead on early college stationery, and Blanchard's vision of a large stone building replete with battlements and castellated cornices was strong enough to provide a guiding idea for all additions.

The original building was a two story, saddleback roofed structure built by the Illinois Institute in 1858. It is the center of the existing structure, excluding the tower. Vaguely Classical in design, the building had scrolled white brackets at the cornice, and two-story narrow arched windows that are still visible behind the tower addition. The addition of the tower in 1871 was quickly followed by the construction of the west wing, completed in 1873. This wing had Italianate details; doubled arched windows in the end-wing, and low, overhanging eaves. The asymmetric structure stood until 1890, when the growth of the school required the addition of half of today's east wing. The connecting portion was built, leaving the building without a balancing end wing to the east. The 1890 addition reflects the popularity of the Romanesque style at the end of the century in the massive Richardsonian arches around the windows of the fourth floor. The symmetry of Blanchard's vision finally was completed in 1927 with the addition of the end of the east wing. The sills and arches here are smooth limestone, reflecting modern Stonecutting technology.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The building is currently used to house the administration, public relations, and fund-raising offices of the college. It is in excellent condition, having been cleaned twice in the past twenty years, once for Wheaton's Centennial (1960) and once as part of a recent college fund-raising and image-building campaign. There have been no major alterations to Blanchard Hall since the completion of the last addition in 1927.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 5 1979

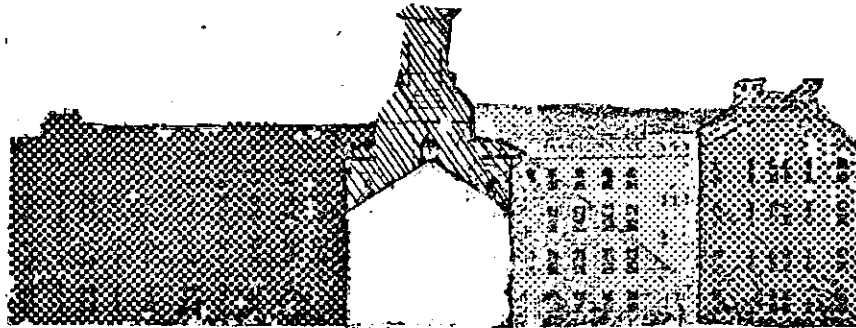
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 3



- | | | | |
|---|------|---|------|
| □ | 1858 | ▤ | 1890 |
| ▨ | 1871 | ▧ | 1927 |
| ▩ | 1873 | | |

BLANCHARD HALL, Wheaton, IL

illustration of building 1858-1927

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 first bldg. 1858 BUILDER/ARCHITECT
 subsequent additions 1871, 1890, 1925

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Blanchard Hall has been identified by both the Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey and the Illinois Historic Structures Survey as being a prime candidate for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Blanchard Hall exemplifies the midwestern college architecture of the last half of the nineteenth century. Limestone had become a popular material (probably because of its actual and visual solidity) and a variety of styles of large educational buildings were built from local stone in and around Illinois. Blanchard, however, is unusual in its extended construction and in the careful attempt to unify the structure with each addition. Vaguely Classical in design, Blanchard Hall is notable for the use of Italianate and Romanesque characteristics. The detailing of Blanchard Hall is a sign of the growing eclecticism in nineteenth century architecture.

Blanchard Hall was the nucleus around which grew Wheaton College, a school that today is one of the national centers of American evangelism.

Jonathan Blanchard, the school's first president, regarded the building as the cornerstone of his strategy for enabling the school to survive the depression-ridden 1870s. "If I can finish that building my enemies are silenced and I can go on with the College," he wrote in 1870, but "if I fail to complete that building, I am crippled and must give up." Blanchard also invested the structure with a spiritual significance. It became for him a symbol of Wheaton's unyielding adherence to evangelical Protestantism in the face of an emerging secular, pluralistic culture. "If we can complete our buildings," he wrote, "men will think it possible for a college to live and not bend the knee to Baal."

In many ways, Wheaton's subsequent history confirmed Blanchard's prediction. His son, who became president of the college in 1882 and served until 1926, completed the east wing of Blanchard Hall and guided Wheaton College into the Fundamentalist movement. At the height of the "monkey Trial" fervor in the 1920s, Charles Blanchard even considered renaming his school "William Jennings Bryan University."

Since the mid-nineteenth century, Wheaton College's militant religiosity has radiated from its physical center at Blanchard Hall to shape

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

the cultural and social climate of the town and surrounding countryside. Wheaton is a dry town due to the college influence, and in the past, many of the area's residents defined themselves largely with reference to the school--the "college crowd" and those opposed.

Wheaton College is also significant for its national influence. During the 1920s, 30s, and 40s, Wheaton came to be regarded as the "Harvard of American Evangelicalism," one of the few schools that offered sound academic training from a conservative Protestant perspective. Talented young evangelicals, among them Billy Graham, graduated from the college and today are among the leaders of a neo-evangelical revival that is a religious, social, and cultural phenomenon of major importance. A \$15.5-million-dollar Billy Graham center is being constructed on campus, and at least thirty national evangelical organizations have located their headquarters at Wheaton. Attracted by a pious environment and a pool of Christian workers, such groups as the National Association of Evangelicals have located in an area that one reporter dubbed the "Vatican of Evangelicals."

And if Wheaton is the "Vatican of Evangelicals," Blanchard Hall is surely "St. Peter's." The building still functions as the administrative heart of the college, which is, in turn one center of a religious movement that some scholars have identified with the very essence of American culture.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Wheaton

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 408750 4635560

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet

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

Philip Lindsay Pomerance - Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission

DATE

8/8/78

STREET & NUMBER

400 W. Madison

TELEPHONE

(312) 454-0400 ext. 256

CITY OR TOWN

Chicago

STATE

Illinois

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE x

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

David Kenney

TITLE

Director, Ill. Dept. of Conservation

DATE

~~12/29/78~~ 10/17/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Sydney Ahlstrom, A Religious History of the American People.

"Evangelicals flock to Wheaton," Springfield, (Illinois) Journal-Register, July 24, 1978.

Ralph Henry Gabriel, The Course of American Democratic Thought.

Richard Gerig, Director of Public Relations, Wheaton College.
Interview. Wheaton, Illinois. 7/27/78.

Jonathan Blanchard to Gerrit Smith, Feb. 1 and Dec. 14, 1870,
Gerrit Smith Papers, Syracuse University.

Paul E. Sprague, "Critical Historic Features" Chicago: Historic
Preservation Services, December, 1976.

Wheaton College Archives. Wheaton, Illinois.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 5 1979

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

VERBAL LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Blanchard Hall

In the southwest quarter (SW $\frac{1}{4}$) of the northeast quarter (NE $\frac{1}{4}$)
Township 37 North, Range 10 East of the Third Principle
Meridian;
Block One of the Illinois Institute's addition to the Town
of Wheaton in the County of DuPage in the State of Illinois.

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

Du-H-45 ✓
000163

1. Name of Site:

Common Wheaton College

Historic

2. Location:

<u>Street and Number</u>	<u>Township</u>	<u>Section</u>
Seminary & Washington		
<u>City or Town</u>	<u>Zip Code</u>	<u>Range</u>
Wheaton		
<u>County</u>		<u>1/4 Section</u>
Du Page		

3. Classification:

Category (check one)		Integrity (check one)	
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

4. Ownership:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied
<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied
	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress

Access to Public

Yes Restricted Unrestricted No

Present Use (check one or more)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name _____ Phone Number _____

Street and Number

City or Town

State

County

Zip Code

6. Description: Large limestone bldg. with battlements

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed		

Is there a program of preservation underway? Yes No

EDUCATION

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- Archeological Site (Pre-Columbian)
- Archeological Site (Post-Columbian to 1673)
- French Influence (1673-1780)
- Illinois Frontier (1780-1818)
- Illinois Early (1818-1850)
- Illinois Middle (1850-1900)
- Illinois Late (1900-present)
- Famous People (give names & dates)

8. Specific Date: Est. 1850's

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- Aboriginal (historic)
- Aboriginal (pre-historic)
- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Art
- Commerce
- Communication
- Conservation
- Education
- Engineering
- Industry
- Invention
- Landscape Architecture
- Literature
- Military
- Music
- Political
- Religion/Philosophy
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/Humanitarian
- Theater
- Transportation
- Urban Planning
- Other (specify)

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates)

Use additional sheets if necessary.

Orig. bldgs. are gone. Oldest is Blanchard

9. ~~Form prepared by:~~ ^{File from 1871.}

Name and Title: _____ Date: _____

Organization: _____ Phone: _____

Street and Number: _____

City or Town: _____ County: _____ Zip Code _____

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.