

38N 3E 31

FILE COPY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 New Whatcom Normal School

WH 201

AND/OR COMMON

Old Main, Western Washington State College (preferred)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

516 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Bellingham

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd - Lloyd Meeds

STATE

Washington

VICINITY OF

CODE

53

COUNTY

Whatcom

CODE

073

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Western Washington State College

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bellingham

VICINITY OF

STATE

Washington 98225

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Whatcom County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bellingham

STATE

Washington 98225

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Washington State Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1974

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Olympia

STATE

Washington 98504

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD             RUINS  
 FAIR              UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

#### GENERAL STATEMENT

Old Main occupies a prime site on the campus of Western Washington State College on Sehome Hill overlooking Bellingham Bay. It is a three story complex with basement and partial sub-basement which is made up of four distinct but adjoining sections constructed of brick and local sandstone over a period of years between 1896 and 1914. The original, central block with its smaller dependencies was designed in the Second Renaissance Revival Style by Seattle architects Skillings and Corner. Its acknowledged inspiration was McKim, Mead and White's Boston Public Library, although it was by no means a literal duplication of the widely-copied prototype. Wings designed by local architect Alfred Lee were added at either end in 1901 and 1907, thus creating a more or less symmetrical villa in the Palladian tradition embraced by leading English architects of the first half of the 18th century. In fact, the pedimented facades of the Auditorium Wing and the Science Annex are more Georgian in spirit than Italianate. Nevertheless, the evolving complex, including the Training School Annex of 1914 added to a rear corner, was determinedly tied together through the repetition of facing materials, certain facade details, roof forms, and features above the eaves. The building interior, modified from time to time over the years, is now being comprehensively remodeled for administrative offices and other uses in a project which was initiated as many as five years ago. The building has been structurally reinforced in the course of the latest work, and the exterior has remained essentially intact. Fronting the quadrangle landscaped with specimen trees in accord with a 1908 plan by New York landscape architect S. G. Harris, Old Main has been renovated expressly to continue its historic role as a major focal point and administrative nerve center of the campus.

#### LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Old Main is located in the W $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 31, T.38N., R.3E., of the Willamette Meridian. It was situated on a ten-acre tract on Sehome Hill specially set apart from the New Whatcom Plat in 1893. The present-day campus encompasses some 210 acres. The specific area included in the nomination is the core of the initial tract formed by Old Main and the quadrangle in front of it - an area of approximately six acres.

#### THE SITE

The campus of Western Washington State College is laid out along the westerly slope of Sehome Hill on a topographically varied site ranging from 300 to 600 feet in elevation. Old Main, the first structure on the initial ten acre tract, was sited on bed rock with a northwesterly orientation conforming to the base of the summit ridge against which it is situated. A high terrace was graded around the building foundation, and an open area stretching out in front some 300 feet toward High Street was cleared of tree stumps, filled, planted, and improved with concrete sidewalks and outdoor lighting. Sehome Hill summit, once logged off but now a municipal park, provides a forested backdrop for the Main Building complex and its lush quadrangle. Two of the new campus buildings opposite the quadrangle between East Oak Street and East Pine Street, vacated, exceed one story in height above grade on High Street. Nevertheless, the splendid view of Bellingham Bay which Old Main commands from its elevated site is basically unimpeded. The quadrangle is defined on the northerly end by Edens Hall, a three story brick masonry building of 1921 in the Neo-Classical Revival Style, and, on the south, by Wilson Library, a three-story brick faced "Romanesque" building of 1928 which was recently expanded by distinctly modern accretions.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The old campus green, or quadrangle, is based on a landscape plan of 1908 provided by landscape architect S. G. Harris of Tarrytown, New York. It slopes at a subtle gradient from Old Main terrace to High Street. At its center, a concrete walkway leading from the main entrance is shaded by six Norway maples. Toward High Street, the central walk bifurcates around the base a mound or outcropping surmounted by a flagpole and planted with mature specimen trees, both native and exotic. Trees on this hummock include black walnut, true cedar, American sycamore, American elm, Douglas fir, red alder, and Eastern white pine. Trees in a grouping at the northwest corner of the Main Building complex include ginkgo, yellow cedar, black cottonwood, and giant Western red cedar. The base of Old Main is planted with assorted evergreen shrubbery. A walk at the base of the terrace, parallel to the building facade, has been inlaid with marble squares inscribed by successive graduating classes from 1912 to the present. Subsidiary walks join the Library and Edens Hall to the semi-circular path and the central stem. Lighting of the principal walkways has been modified somewhat since it was installed around 1910. The cast iron columns on pedestals fabricated by the Union Iron Works of Bellingham are in place, but the original fixtures -- pyramid clusters of five round globes each -- were replaced sometime after 1920 by the existing single urn-shaped globes with galvanized iron coronets and finials. A decorative fountain offset to the south of the central walk, which was accommodated in the landscape plan of 1908 and was apparent in early photographs of the campus, is no longer extant.

**THE MAIN BUILDING 1896-1899**

Plans for New Whatcom Normal School have not been turned up in searches over a period of several years, but minutes of the meetings of the Normal School Board of Trustees indicate that the winning design of a competition was submitted by Seattle architects Skillings and Corner and that it was based upon McKim, Mead and White's Second Renaissance Revival masterpiece, the Boston Public Library (1888-1892). In the absence of original plans, it is not possible to know if the scheme was significantly altered in the execution, which was supervised first by Warren P. Skillings and then by local architect Alfred Lee when construction was resumed after a lapse of several years. In any event, the resulting building bears a recognizable resemblance to McKim, Mead and White's academic interpretation of an Italian Renaissance palazzo. Notable among the similarities are the rusticated basement, arcuated fenestration with spandrel medallions, and the hipped roof. However, whereas the Boston Library is a quadrangular block extending as many as thirteen bays on the principal elevations, the Normal School is H-shaped in plan, with a more nearly cube-like three story central block on a high basement. The central block is flanked by two story longitudinal dependencies on basements which combine to make a total facade length of 150 feet.

Completely formal in plan and elevation, the building is timber framed and has a truss roof system and brick masonry walls. Footings and foundation walls were built up from bed rock with sandstone rubble quarried in the vicinity of the site. Basement walls above grade are faced with rusticated brick superposed on a low sandstone ground course. The remainder of the facade wall is faced with pale red-brown pressed brick framed, on the main block, with a rusticated third story and outer bays. Dependencies and flues are

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

trimmed with staggered brick quoins. Sandstone belts are used atop basement and first stories.

Although its embellishments are now almost wholly obscured by ivy vines, the well-crafted building face has a suitable kind of taut-surfaced refinement. Windows are, for the most part, fitted with double-hung sash. Openings in the basement, piano nobile and third story are flat-arched; those of the second story are round-arched. The central five bays of the main block facade are treated - in the manner of the Boston Public Library - as a bold two-story arcade in which pilasters extend without interruption from atop the basement to the second story, where they are linked by brick and sandstone trimmed archivolt springing from belts at the imposts. Medallions decorate the spandrels of the arches, and a sandstone string course with dentils crowns this extensive central panel in its rusticated brick frame. Windows in the central arcade are wide, tripartite groupings separated by mullions.

A large, sandstone-framed and trabeated entrance centered in the facade is approached by a flight of steps of Chuckanut sandstone. Its architrave is inscribed with the building date in Roman numerals and is sheltered by a hood on consoles with a cresting of copper antefixae. Atop the bulkheads of the staircase are cast iron lamp stands on tripod bases with claw feet.

The central block and its dependencies are capped by hipped roofs with projecting eaves on outriggers. The cover, originally of cedar shingles, is now made up of composition shingles. Metal gutters and downspouts form the rain drain system. At either end of the central block are tall, straight-sided rectangular brick flues with galvanized iron hoods.

Inside the barrel-vaulted vestibule lined with marbelized ceramic tile, a typical entry composed of a double-leaf door with sidelights and transom under a semi-circular arch is situated at the head of a second flight of steps. It gives access to the central corridor and stairwell, which is lighted by a large, two-story window in the rear wall, the round-arched head of which is fitted with a modified fanlight. Classrooms and offices opening off the corridor were originally finished with fir floors and trim, and walls were plastered and paneled.

**SUBSEQUENT ADDITIONS 1901-1914**

The first permanent addition to the Normal School was the South Annex, or Auditorium Wing, an L-shaped block of three stories on a basement and sub-basement, which was designed by local architect Alfred Lee and carried out in 1901. Its base is joined to the south dependency of the original building by a single-bay extension of the corridor. The stem, or mass of the wing projects forward, creating a kind of courtyard of the terraced area. Owing to the gradient, sub-basement walls were exposed and therefore given a random ashlar finish.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

Although no plans for the South Annex have come to light, plans and specifications for Alfred Lee's similar Science Annex on the north, completed in 1907, are held in the office of the Campus Architect, Western Washington State College Department of Facilities Development. Specifications for the latter confirm what is clearly indicated on the site, namely: workmanship, materials, facade trim, rooflines -- all were to conform to the pattern established by the original building. Nevertheless, some latitude was taken in designing the opposing wings. For example, only windows of the third, or topmost stories were round-arched; the rest were flat-arched. Moreover, central sections projecting from the facades of either wing, capped as they were by large lunettes and pediments with double flues, gave the wings a distinctly Georgian flavor which was by no means incongruous. By 1907, Bellingham Normal School, as it was then known, had the look of a Palladian villa with outreaching wings as it might have been interpreted by English architects in the circle of Richard Boyle, Third Earl of Burlington, during the first half of the 18th century. Its total facade length now extended approximately 400 feet, including a two-story polygonal bay on the north end wall of the Science Annex.

In 1914 the Normal School achieved its final form with the addition of the Training School Annex, a conforming, three-story hip-roofed rectangular block on basement, which was offset from and joined to the rear, or southeast corner of the South Annex.

**CURRENT MODIFICATIONS 1971-1976**

In response to increasing demand for functional office space on the fast-growing campus, a detailed structural survey of Old Main was conducted by Campus Planning Consultant G. R. Bartholick and consulting engineering firms in 1965. It was concluded, on the basis of their report, that the building could be retained and utilized efficiently if the interior were substantially remodeled. Funds were requested and appropriated by the Legislature, and the initial phase of renovation was undertaken in 1971. As a consequence of the project -- now nearing completion -- the building has been structurally reinforced; mechanical and electrical systems and fire safety and other features have been brought up to code. While two old staircases remain on the interior, most of the wall cover has been replaced and much of the space reorganized for specialized uses, such as conference rooms, lounge and reception areas, offices, special classrooms, work and storerooms. Among the array of administrative departments now consolidated within the Old Main complex are Academic and Student Affairs, Admissions, Accounting, College Planning, Career Placement and Counseling. The College President's office remains in its original location on the topmost floor of the central block, its fireplace wall paneling intact.

Modifications to the building exterior have been confined to the south elevation, where several round-arched windows in the uppermost floor have been elongated to light stairwells. The only significant change is a single-story, glass walled Registration Center which has been added alongside the sub-basements of the South Annex and Training School Annex. The enclosed area also serves as a lobby for a lecture hall and theater in the Training School wing. While unquestionably contemporary in design, this minor addition

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 5

has been well integrated with its surroundings. Its sloping, ribbed metal roof echoes the hipped roofs and projecting eaves of Old Main. Its glass wall reveals the brick and sandstone outside wall of Old Main, rather than obscuring it. It is, perhaps, less of an intrusion than an effective transition to the brick-paved plaza which now exists between Old Main and the Humanities Building and Lecture Hall which, in turn, border a newer campus quadrangle to the south.

# 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 checked="" 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 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		

(1896)

SPECIFIC DATES      1896-1914      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Skillings and Corner, Architects  
Alfred Lee, Architect (1901-1907)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### GENERAL STATEMENT

Old Main is significant to the city of Bellingham and to the state as the original building on the campus of the Normal School founded by Legislative Act in 1893 and initially funded in 1895. While several local communities had aspired to become the site of the state teachers training school in Western Washington, the institution established at New Whatcom was proudly claimed by the Bellingham Bay community and Whatcom County as a whole. Sited on the westerly slope of Sehome Hill, with a spectacular command of the bay in Puget Sound to the northwest, New Whatcom Normal School was designed in the Second Renaissance Revival Style by Seattle architects Skillings and Corner. It was opened for use in 1899. Classroom wings matching materials and details of the original brick and sandstone block were designed by local architect Alfred Lee and completed in 1901 and 1907. A final Training School addition conforming to the overall design was constructed in 1914.

Although auxiliary buildings of a temporary nature and a large dormitory were erected nearby in the intervening years, the whole of academic life was contained in the Main Building complex until construction of a permanent library building in 1928 and the Physical Education Building which followed in 1935. From the earliest years of expansion, and throughout the institution's recent dynamic growth as Western Washington State College, Old Main and its landscaped green have been scrupulously preserved as the historic core of the campus. The Main Building complex was modified internally from time to time as educational and spatial requirements changed over a period of seventy years. The latest project -- a comprehensive remodeling of the interior -- has been carried out during the past five years and is nearing completion. The external appearance of the complex is essentially unchanged. Strengthened and stabilized, Old Main is intended to continue as the administrative center of the college for many years to come.

### FOUNDING OF NEW WHATCOM NORMAL SCHOOL

By 1890, four rival townsites which had grown up side by side along Bellingham Bay on Puget Sound in Northwestern Washington over a period of thirty years were legally incorporated as the two separate towns of New Whatcom and Fairhaven. Bellingham Bay held great promise commercially, owing to its protected deep-water harbor and ready access to vast supplies of timber, coal and other resources. A real estate boom was started by a local railroad syndicate when it appeared that Bellingham Bay might become the Northwest Coast terminus of the trans-continental railroad. On the tide of such optimism, delegations from several Whatcom County communities lobbied in Olympia for a State-supported teachers training school.

In 1893, despite the fact that it had become clear the Seattle, and not Bellingham Bay, would be the state's major railhead port, a bill to locate a normal school in Whatcom

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

County was worked through the State Legislature and signed into law by Governor John H. McGraw -- without its accompanying appropriation measure, however. A site-selection commission was appointed to review sites offered in Lynden, Ferndale and Blaine as well as New Whatcom. When the ten acre tract on Sehome Hill offered jointly by the Bellingham Bay Improvement Company and the Fairhaven Land Company was selected, it was immediately set apart from the New Whatcom Plat by the City Council.

**MAIN BUILDING PLANNED AND OPENED FOR USE**

In 1895 the State Legislature appropriated \$40,000 for construction and improvements on the prospective campus, and the development phase was launched. The design competition was won by Seattle architects Skillings and Corner. Warren P. Skillings, the senior member of the firm, had recently gained recognition as the winner of a design competition for the Washington State Building at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. The latter had been a design for a half-timbered structure with corner towers, pavilions, and a log base wall. Skillings and his partner, James M. Corner, were listed in Seattle directories from 1890 through 1899. Little else is known of their career as yet except that in the same year they submitted a design for the New Whatcom Normal School they were at work on the approved plans for Queen Anne Public School in Seattle. As might be expected, the latter bears some likeness to the Normal School in that it has an H-shaped plan, brick wall construction, arcuated fenestration, and a hipped roof with projecting eaves on outriggers. The Normal School design, however, was distinctly different in its orientation and its facade treatment based upon the Boston Public Library of McKim, Mead and White, completed in 1892.

Precise siting of the Normal School has been attributed to a recommendation made by Morgan J. Carkeek of Seattle, who in 1895 was president of the Wenatchee Development Company and the Pontiac Brick and Tile Company. He maintained an office in the Burke Building, the office building where Skillings and Corner also were located at the time.

The construction contract was awarded to local contractor W. B. Davey, but owing to insufficient funds, inadequate performance on the part of the contractor, and strikes by stone and brick masons, the building stood incomplete, except for basement and first story, and unoccupied for several years. In 1899 a further appropriation was obtained and work was resumed. It is presumed that it was at this time that local architect Alfred Lee, who had designed noteworthy buildings in New Whatcom, including the City Hall, was engaged to supervise the project's completion. New Whatcom Normal School was opened for use in the fall of 1899 with a faculty of nine. The first term closed with a total enrollment of 264.

**GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

During the second academic year, 1900-1901, the faculty was increased to twelve, a manual training department was added, and the first need for expanded facilities was recognized.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

The Legislature appropriated \$93,800 for construction of the South Annex, including an auditorium designed to seat 1,000, and a frame gymnasium. Alfred Lee designed and supervised construction of the new wing. The gymnasium, sited at the rear of the central block, was removed years ago.

In 1903 voters approved consolidation of the adjoining towns of Fairhaven and New Whatcom, which had been officially renamed "Whatcom" in 1901. When the charter of the resulting city was adopted in 1904, "Bellingham" ranked fourth in size among Washington cities with a population of 22,632. It had emerged, with port facilities connected by rail to points north and south, as a vital manufacturing center. Further improvements were made on the campus of what was consequently known as Bellingham Normal School at this time. A frame dining hall built in 1903 was resited on the south side of the Main Building and enlarged in 1905. Several years later it was remodeled for use as a dormitory. It was eventually removed. The Science Annex, constructed according to Alfred Lee's design, was constructed on the north end of the Main Building in 1907 at a cost of \$51,000.

In 1908 influential local businessman Roland G. Gamwell, well-known in horticultural circles statewide and an active member of Bellingham's Park Board, recommended that a planting plan for the green in front of the Main Building be prepared. At his suggestion, Everett C. Lyle, a landscape engineer in the City's employ, developed a contour map which was sent to S. G. Harris, a landscape gardener in Tarrytown, New York. The landscape plan which was returned by Harris that year called for the concrete walks, the allee of Norway maples, and the well-tended ornamental trees which are in place today.

A detached frame manual training, or shop building was erected to the southeast of the Main Building in 1912 and enlarged the following year by being raised onto a brick masonry substructure. This building, seen in early views of the campus, is still standing, but it has fallen into disrepair and is essentially unused except for storage. As a result of recent development it now falls outside the precincts of Old Main in visual terms.

When a Training School Annex was added to the southeast corner of the Auditorium Wing in 1914, the Main Building complex as it exists today was complete. The campus green which fronts Old Main was defined on the south and north ends by construction of a Neo-Classical Revival dormitory in 1921 and a "Romanesque" Library in 1928.

Additional tracts were acquired, beginning in 1917, and improvements were made at an accelerating pace until today the campus covers 210 acres with sixty-one buildings accommodating a faculty of 409 and student enrollment of 9,500. In the words of Campus Planning Consultant G. R. Bartholick, "the college is now a multi-purpose institution offering both bachelors and masters degrees in education and the arts and sciences and providing a wide range of research and community services." Early growth, slowed by the Great Depression, was guided by the 1924 campus plan of noted Washington architects Bebb and Gould. An interim plan was prepared in 1959 by Paul Thiry, and in 1964 the current plan was supplied by G. R. Bartholick. Throughout these successive periods of change, Old

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

Main and its quadrangle have been respected and retained as a primary planning element.

A NOTE ON THE ARCHITECT, ALFRED LEE

Alfred Lee (1843-1933), a native of Missouri, emigrated overland to Oregon with his parents in 1852. His father having died of cholera on the Snake River, he settled in Yamhill County, Oregon, with his mother and younger brother and sister and was apprenticed to a wagon-maker. By 1874 Lee had married and moved his family to Forest Grove in a neighboring county, where he started a shop for the manufacture of farm machinery, carriages and wagons.

In 1890 Lee relocated his family once again to Bellingham Bay in Washington where he appears to have launched his architectural practice. He is not known to have had any formal training in the profession, but he had a mechanic's know-how, an engineering bent, and he is believed to have studied architecture and engineering since his apprentice days. Lee soon was commissioned to design the New Whatcom City Hall, and he supervised its construction, completed in 1892. Now maintained as the Whatcom Museum of History and Art, the building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It too, was restored by G. R. Bartholick, architect in charge of the renovation of Old Main.

Lee submitted plans for the New Whatcom Normal School during the competition of 1895, and although his proposals were not selected by the school's board of trustees, he was given a contract to supervise completion of the winning scheme after construction had lapsed for several years. As has been noted, he designed the wings added to the Normal School in 1901 and 1907. To Lee's credit, in addition to these important public commissions, were a number of fashionable homes, the New Whatcom Baptist Church, the Northside and Southside High Schools, and the Northside Library. Around 1907, as an increasing number of younger and professionally-trained architects arrived in the burgeoning manufacturing center, Lee quit his practice of architecture and resumed the mechanic's trade, making and repairing gasoline engines in a shop in his home. His was one of the early automotive works in Bellingham.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview, August 8, October 28, 1976: George R. Bartholick, architect and planner in charge of current Old Main internal remodeling project and present-day campus planning.

Kasson, Helen, preliminary National Register nomination form on Old Main, March 19, 1975.

(continued on attached sheet)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ca. 6 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,0 53,810,2,0 5,39,82,5,0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B                    
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                    
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D                    
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Elisabeth Walton Potter, Historic Preservation Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

DATE

October 1976

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 1128

TELEPHONE

(206) 753-4117

CITY OR TOWN

Olympia

STATE

Washington 98504

## 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

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

November 30, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Roth, Lottie Roeder, ed., History of Whatcom County (Chicago - Seattle: Pioneer Historical Publishing Company, 1926), Vol. 1, pgs. 697-708.

Hicks, Arthur C., Western at 75 (Bellingham, Washington: Western Washington State College Foundation, 1974). Well-illustrated historical summary of WWSU's first 75 years. Minutes of meetings of the Board of Trustees are among various primary sources used.

Obituary article, architect Alfred Lee, Bellingham Herald (December 20, 1933), 10.

Biographical note on architect Alfred Lee, one-page typescript prepared by the Whatcom Museum of History and Art, Bellingham. Undated. Based on an item in Bellingham Herald (February 28, 1966).

Correspondence from Mrs. James A. Tarte, Ferndale, Washington, former daughter-in-law of Alfred Lee, September 9, 1976.

Bartholick, G. R., Western Washington State College Academic Reserve Area Study/Plan, 1968. This study provided the first historical review of the evolving campus plan.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Western Washington State College Facilities Development Plan, December 15, 1974. Prepared by WWSU Facilities Development Staff. Incorporates G. R. Bartholick's historical summary of campus planning at WWSU with plans added for illustration.

Bartholick, G. R., The Old Main Building Remodeling Project, Schematic Design Study, Development Phase I Study Report, July 1, 1971.

Bartholick, G. R., The Old Main Building Remodeling Project, Phase II Design Development, March 29, 1976. Eleven sheets.

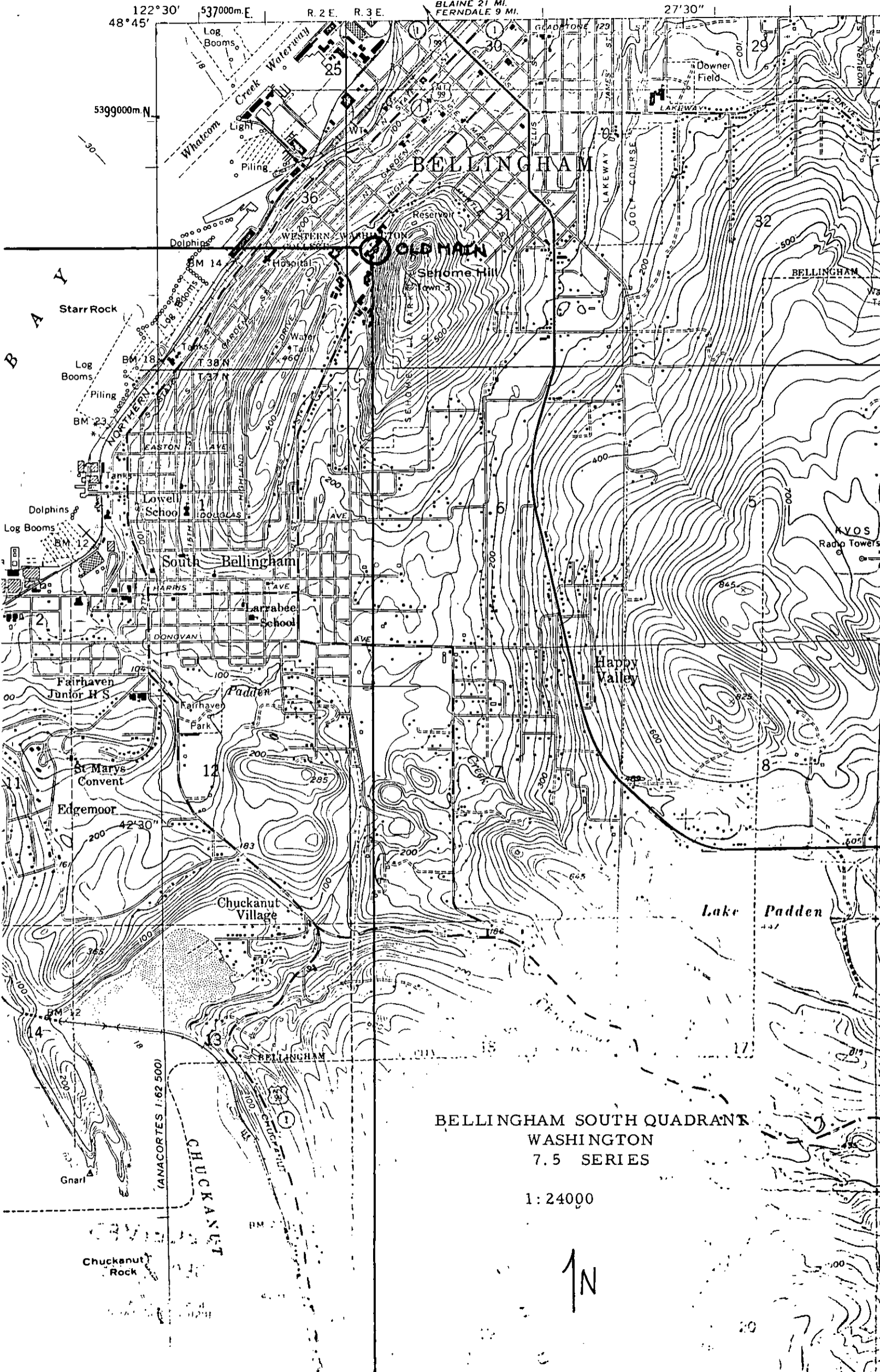
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

DEPART  
COAST

122°30' 537000m E. R.2 E. R.3 E. BLAINE 21 MI. FERDALE 9 MI. 27'30"

48°45'

5399000m N



BELLINGHAM SOUTH QUADRANT  
WASHINGTON  
7.5 SERIES

1:24000





1.  
Please Return To:  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
WESTERN WASHINGTON STATE COLLEGE  
BELLINGHAM, WA. 98225

OLD MAIN ON THE WESTERN WASHINGTON STATE COLLEGE CAMPUS AS IT APPEARED IN 1899  
WHEN THE SCHOOL OPENED



OLD MAIN ON THE WWSU CAMPUS AS IT APPEARED IN THE 1920s.

Please Return To:  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
WESTERN WASHINGTON STATE COLLEGE  
BELLINGHAM, WA. 98225





MAIN BUILDING COMPLEX (1896-1914)

NEW WHATCOM NORMAL SCHOOL

(NOW WESTERN WASHINGTON STATE COLLEGE)

BALLINGHAM, WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ASAHAL CURTIS PHOTO, DATE UNKNOWN (CA. 1915-1920)

SOURCE: UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON LIBRARY,  
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS