

2002

The Earliest Buildings: 33 Historic Sites

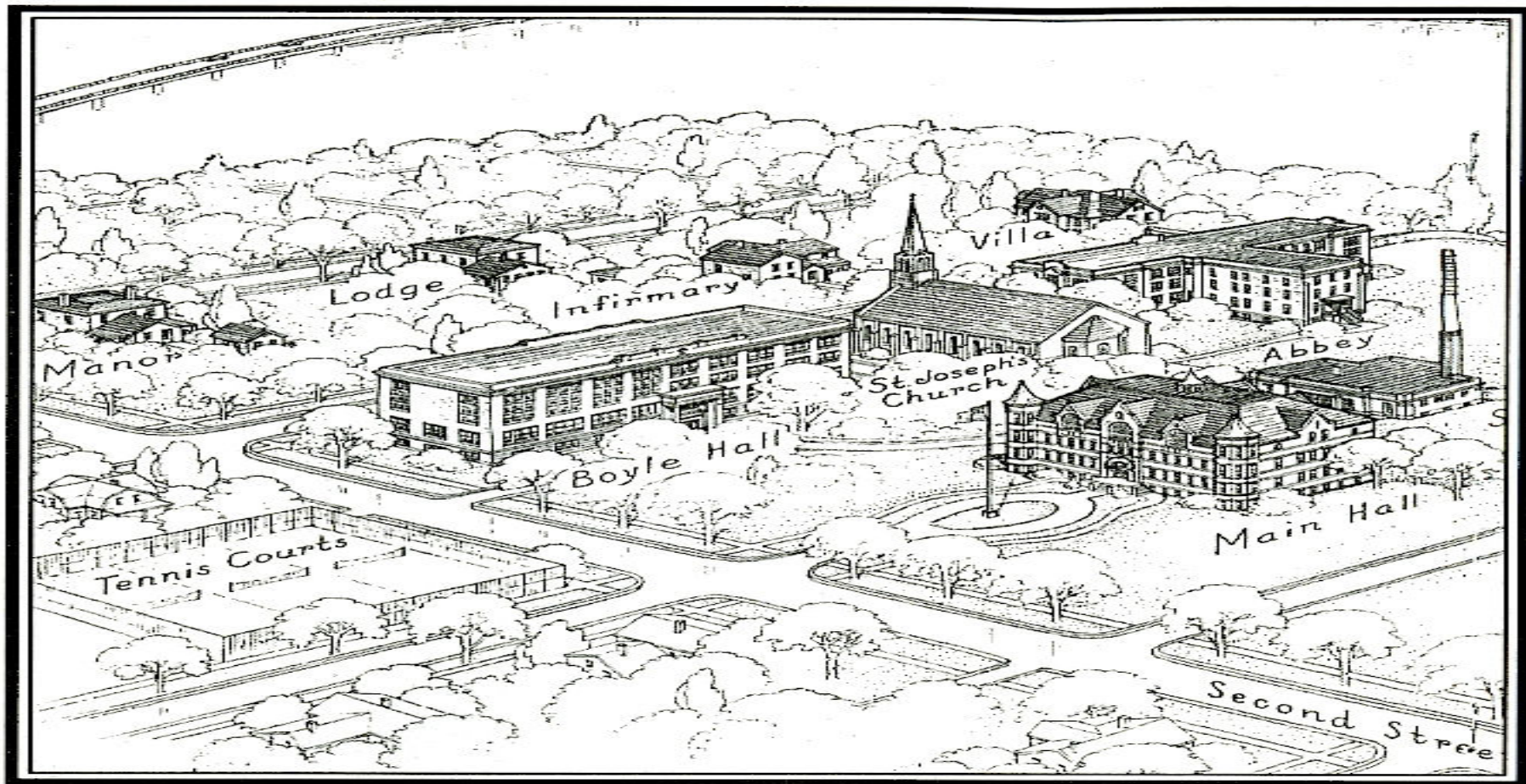
Donald L. Pieters
St. Norbert College

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.snc.edu/digitalarchive>

Recommended Citation

Pieters, Donald L., "The Earliest Buildings: 33 Historic Sites" (2002). *Digital Archive*. Book 2.
<http://digitalcommons.snc.edu/digitalarchive/2>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives at Digital Commons @ St. Norbert College. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Archive by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ St. Norbert College. For more information, please contact sarah.titus@snc.edu.



The Earliest Buildings

33 Historic Sites



Dedication

I wish to dedicate this booklet to the Golden Knights of St. Norbert College. This group of Alumni who have graduated fifty years ago or more from the College remember many of these buildings that were removed or remodeled, or have become remote in time. The Golden Knights were started in June of 1983 at the alumni reunion for the class of 1933. The co-ordinator for the group was Henry Jacobs 33' who said at the event, "It's going to grow." And it has, from these first 150 the organization has grown to some 650 strong.

At first the Golden Knights, sponsored by the SNC Alumni Association, met each June for Homecoming at the College. They now meet in Spring; for initiation ceremonies at the Reunion/Homecoming Weekend; and in December for their Christmas party where, at these times, they share a liturgy, lunch, and camaraderie. Most alumni of the 1983 initiation were from Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan, with a few from as far as Washington, D.C.. Now they come from all over the country.

At the yearly initiation ceremony at homecoming time each Golden Knight receives a certificate honoring their membership in this elite group.

So the author of this publication, a Golden Knight of '49, dedicates this booklet to this memorable group.

**The Archives
St. Norbert College
Donald L. Pieters, Director**

33 Historic Sites

Removed, Remodeled, or Remote in Memory

Founded in 1898, St. Norbert College has grown from its earliest building St. Joseph Church, (now Old St. Joseph Church), built in 1871, and St. Joseph Parish Rectory, built in 1872, to become a beautiful campus consisting of thirty-nine buildings situated on some sixty well landscaped and tree-shaded acres along the Fox River in De Pere, Wisconsin.

Buildings since the early founding that were removed, have become remote in memory, or were remodeled, still prove fascinating to students who lived in them, worked in them, or attended classes in them in earlier years.

With the help of archival files and materials in the department of facilities, these thirty three early sites bring a history of the development of the College into the present times.

Frontispiece

Dedication

33 Historic Sites

Index

St. Joseph Parish Rectory	1872	5
St. Joseph Elementary School	No Date	6
St. Norbert Convent	1899	7
First Congregational Church	1908	8
The Abbey Fence	1899	9
Gymnasiums	1905, 1911, 1930	10-11
Chancellor's Residence	1916	12
Zelten Home	Between 1915-1937	13
Garages and Smoke Stack	1917	14
Boyle Hall Library	1924	15
Alger Home	1930's	16
The Infirmary	1930's	17
The Villa	1937	18
The Lodge	1937	19
The Manor	1937	20
St. Norbert Abbey	1926, 1962	21
St. Joseph Parish Convent	No Date	22
The Biology Library	No Date	23
The Bookstore	1930	24
Leo Vaessen Home	1934	25
War Surplus Science Building	1947	26
Kenwood Apartments	No Date	27
Joseph M. Conway Memorial Library	1960	28
St. Joseph Hall	1961	29
Clementine Devroy Infirmary	1964	30
Dorm IV	1967	31
The Coffeehouse	1977	32
Office of Housing	1977	33
First and Second Streets	No Dates	34-35
First Permanent Marker for SNC	1978	36
Van Dyke Hall	1980	37
Micke Grocery Store	1982	38
Official Presidential Residence	1983	39



The St. Joseph Parish Rectory

On Grant Street between St. Joseph Church and the Fox River.

By carpenters

No record of cost

This rectory served as the home of the priests who served the parish. It was built in 1872 and was the home of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart who served St. Joseph Parish from 1871 to 1896. It was renamed St. Norbert Convent on September 2, 1898, when Father Pennings took over the parish. It was again renamed St. Norbert Priory in 1902 when Father Pennings was named a Prior for the Norbertine Order in De Pere. It was here in 1898 and in the parish school house south of the church that Father Pennings gave latin lessons to the first students in the school. The entire structure was razed in 1962.



The St. Joseph Elementary School

No record of builders or cost

In the original parish were two buildings---the rectory and the schoolhouse. The schoolhouse was a two-story building directly south of the church. Some classes were taught here by Father Pennings. The school was torn down in 1916 to make room for the garages and heating plant which were built in 1917 through the gift of Mr. Henry Boyle of Fond du Lac.



The St. Norbert Convent and Priory

On Grant Street between the Church and the Rectory
Cost \$2,125

In 1898 only the parish rectory existed east of St. Joseph Church. In 1899 a three story building was erected between St. Joseph Church and the Rectory to house the Norbertine Order members, and was called St. Norbert Convent. It was also used for College classes. This extension to the parish rectory was solemnly blessed September 28, 1899. The remodeled building was squat in appearance, but did manage to rise to the height of two stories in the front. The central area of the first floor contained the four rooms that were the College. One room served as the office of the rector, another as the office of the prefect, with the two remaining rooms serving as a classroom and a recreation room. The renovation increased the size of the rectory to twenty-six rooms. It was renamed St. Norbert Priory in 1902 when Father Pennings was named a Prior for the Norbertine Order in De Pere.



Former First Congregational Church

Constructed 1908 Purchased 1965 Demolished 1991

The First Congregational Church, adjacent to the Abbot Pennings High School, at 111 Reid Street, was built in 1908 at a cost of \$7218.48. In 1965 a new United Congregational Church was built at Tenth and Cedar Streets and the original church was sold to the College. Abbot Pennings High School used the structure as a music hall and band room until it was declared structurally unsound. Demolished in 1991 it became PAC parking lot No.3.



The Abbey Fence

1899

The Abbey Fence was erected in 1899. In a letter to the Rt. Rev. Abbot in Berne, Father Pennings tells him, "We have had a wooden fence erected around our property except along the river: it is 7 feet high, painted twice on both sides; costing about \$200.00. Now we finally feel at home and can move about freely. On Sunday we will now have a solemn procession within the septa (enclosure), if the weather is dry."

The fence ran from the end of the heating plant to the river, and separated the abbey grounds from the college campus. As at Berne Abbey in Holland Father Pennings believed in keeping the religious fraters separate from the secular students.

There was a very nice apple orchard on the abbey side of the fence and a real temptation for the college students. They had to scale the 7' fence to get at the apples. One problem with this was getting caught by the fraters. When caught, their heads were shaved and painted green. It was common knowledge to the college students that a fellow student appearing for his morning class had tried---and failed---to beat the odds!!

The term "jumping the fence" came to mean college students who decided to join the Norbertine Order.

Gymnasium, St. Norbert's College,
Deperre, Wis.



Gymnasiums Prior to 1979

The first gymnasium used by St. Norbert College students was the old Kidney Boat Factory. A storage building acquired by Father Pennings from Daniel Kidney was moved intact to a site along Second Street and used as the first gymnasium in 1905. It was of wood construction and heated by a woodburning stove. It was the victim of an overheated stove and burned completely in 1909.

Another wood building was built on the same site and it also burned in 1911.

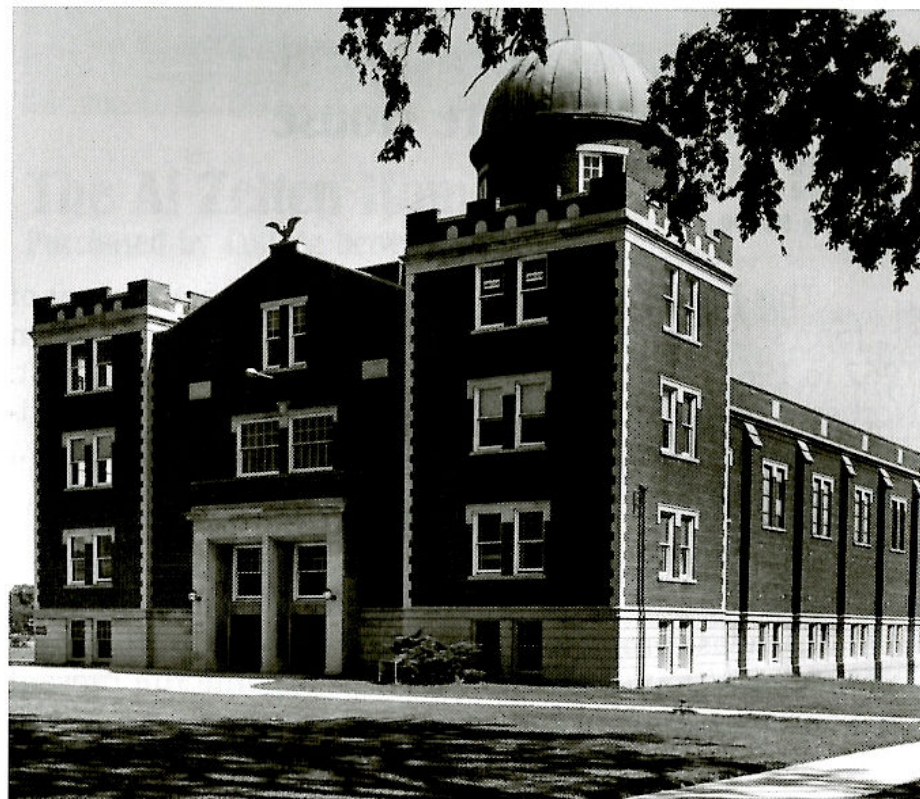
Then a larger building, often referred to as the "first" gym (actually the third), was built along Millar Street, west of the present Campus Center. It was also of wood construction but was covered with brick veneer and of considerable size. It was the pride of Father Ignatius F. Van Dyke, and served as a multi-purpose gymnasium. It was later removed for salvage by P.H. Roffers, a local resident.

In 1929 the administration made a commitment to build a grand, state of the art gymnasium, named in 1945 for Father Ignatius Van Dyke, the first student at St. Norbert College, and an avid and dedicated sports enthusiast. It was used for both varsity sports and general ath-

letic programs of the student body.

The St. Norbert College basketball team completed its 1978-79 schedule in the gym and moved to the new Schuldes Sports Center, the site of future intercollegiate events and other student activities. The women's volleyball team was the actual last team to play in the old gym.

A 15,000 foot addition and renovation of the gym in 2000 saw the building become the new Ray Van Den Heuvel Family Campus Center, a marvellous transformation of an existing structure on the College campus.





Chancellor's Residence and International Culture House

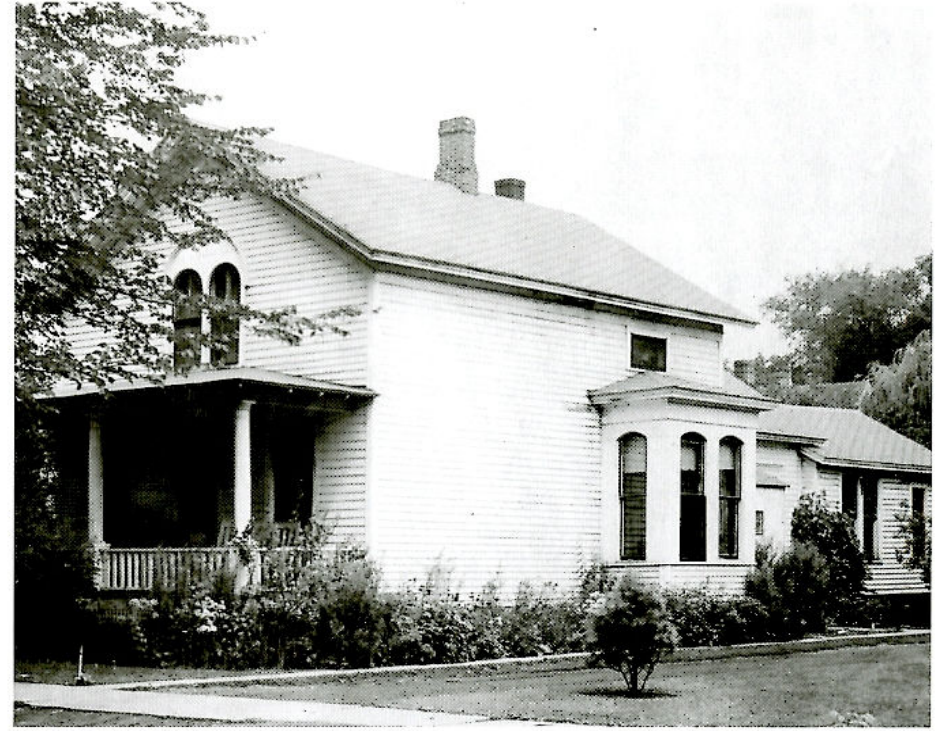
100 Third Street 1916

Cost: \$23,000 including St. John Rectory

Remodeling: \$15,000

This house, built in 1916, was the former rectory of St. John's Lutheran Church, the pastor's residence from 1962 to 1965. For the next three years it was home to a St. Norbert College Professor, and from 1968 to 1977 the residence of the Chancellor, Rev. Dennis M. Burke, O. Praem., of the College, hence the name Chancellor's Residence.

From 1985 to 1989 the House was designated as a residence for students studying a second language, and received the name International Culture House. In 1999 the house was completely remodeled and the front terrace removed and replaced by a porch to become the present I.F. Van Dyke Alumni House.



The Al Zelten Home

Purchased by College between 1915-1937

Al Zelten was the first janitor at the College. He held this position from 1916 to 1956, and then part time until the 1980's. He had this home rental free from the College at 114 Grant Street across from St. Joseph Church. Also with the free rental came a daily supply of milk for his large family and potatoes from the garden, with a small salary. For these wages he took care of the Abbey, the St. Joseph School, and the College buildings.



Garages Connected to Heating Plant and Smoke Stack

1917

A connecting building and gateway to the Priory grounds containing four garage spaces was also built in 1917 as part of the Henry Boyle gift. This addition extended from the heating plant north to St. Joseph Church. When Old St. Joseph Church was completely remodeled and a chapel added at the south end, the garages were removed and a new one built south of St. Joseph Priory. In 1977 the high smoke stack on the heating plant was reduced to half its former height.



Boyle Hall Library

West end first floor Boyle Hall
1924

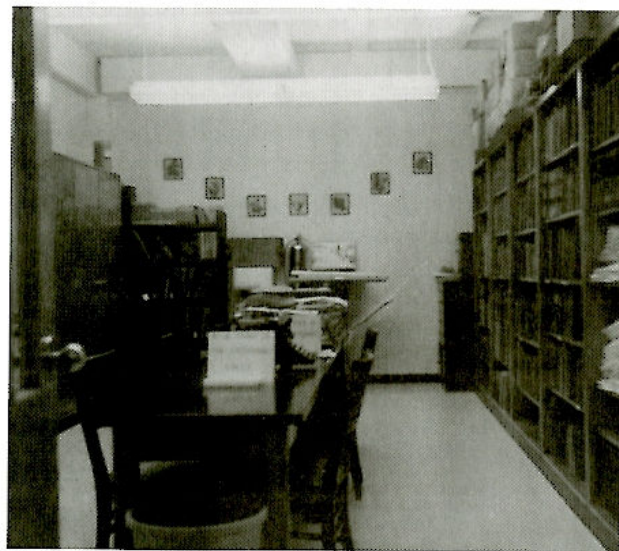
The first college library was a small room on the first floor of Main Hall. It was opened in 1903 when students donated and sought gifts of books. During 1921-22 a large classroom on the east end of Boyle Hall's first floor became the library. An expanded library was created in 1924 when the entire west end of the first floor of Boyle Hall became the St. Norbert College Library.



The Sisters Convent

126 Grant Street

The Convent and home for the Sisters teaching at St. Joseph Elementary School at 126 Grant Street was called the Welbeck House. It was immediately across from Francis H. Boyle Hall. When a new St. Joseph School was built and a new convent established south of the city in 1961, the College purchased the home. It was used to house women resident students, and was removed in December of 1965 to provide a site for the science building.



The Biology Library

Second floor Francis H. Boyle Hall

At one time there were four different libraries on campus---the main library in the Francis H. Boyle Hall; the Music Library in the Abbot Pennings Hall of Fine Arts; the Science Library in the Dr. John R. Minahan Science Hall; and the Biology Library in the Frances H. Boyle Hall.

The Biology Library was developed and supervised by Father Anselm Keefe. It was housed in a room adjacent to the botany lab on the second floor of Boyle Hall. The only way into this library was through Fr. Keefe's lab, and since he was very proud of the many books he had acquired personally, he watched the collection carefully. He did his own cataloging of the collection, using a rather unique system. Many of the books were rare, dating back to the 16th century. Many were old herbals of European origin containing pictures of botanical specimens made from woodcuts. The entire collection was ultimately moved to the new Todd Wehr Library.



The Bookstore

Various locations

Perhaps no college facility has seen more locations on campus than the St. Norbert College Bookstore.

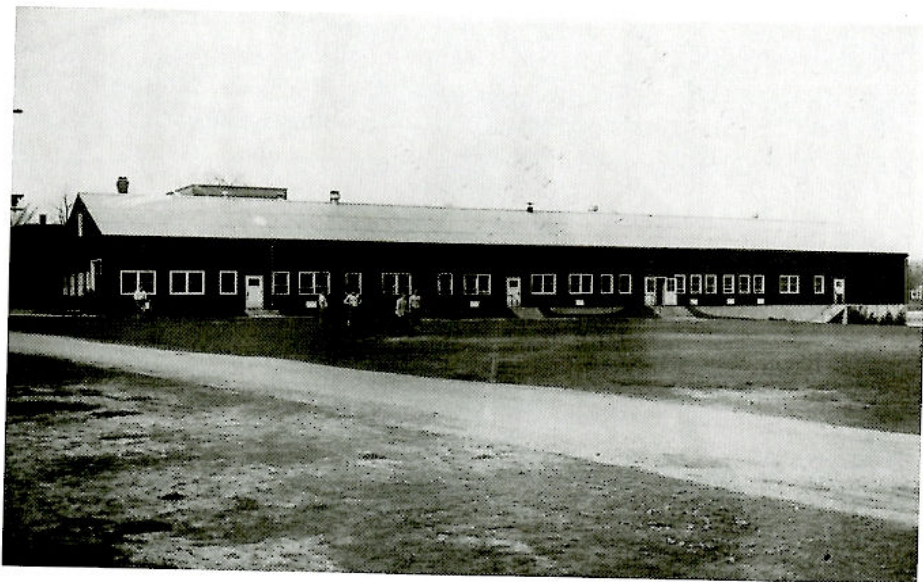
Starting in 1930 as a one-room bookstore, it was moved to the first floor of Main Hall. It was then moved to the basement floor of Main Hall until 1979, when space was provided in the former Van Dyke Gymnasium. The textbook division was moved to the ground floor there, and the campus bookstore to the first floor of the Frank and Margaret Sensenbrenner Memorial Union. In 1999 the College purchased and remodeled the former St. Boniface Church on fourth street in West De Pere as a new bookstore for textbooks and campus needs. It opened for business on August 9, 1999.



Leo Vaessen Home

119 Reid Street

This lanen stone home at 119 Reid Street was built by Leo Vaessen in 1934 and purchased by the College in March of 1966. It served several purposes. Caroline Schreiner, St. Norbert College Dean of Women, lived here from 1966 to 1970. At times from 1989 until 1993 it was used for visiting speakers and guests for short term lodging. The home was razed in 1993 when a parking lot was needed for the Dr. John R. Minahan Science Hall.



War Surplus Science Building

Science Hall Annex

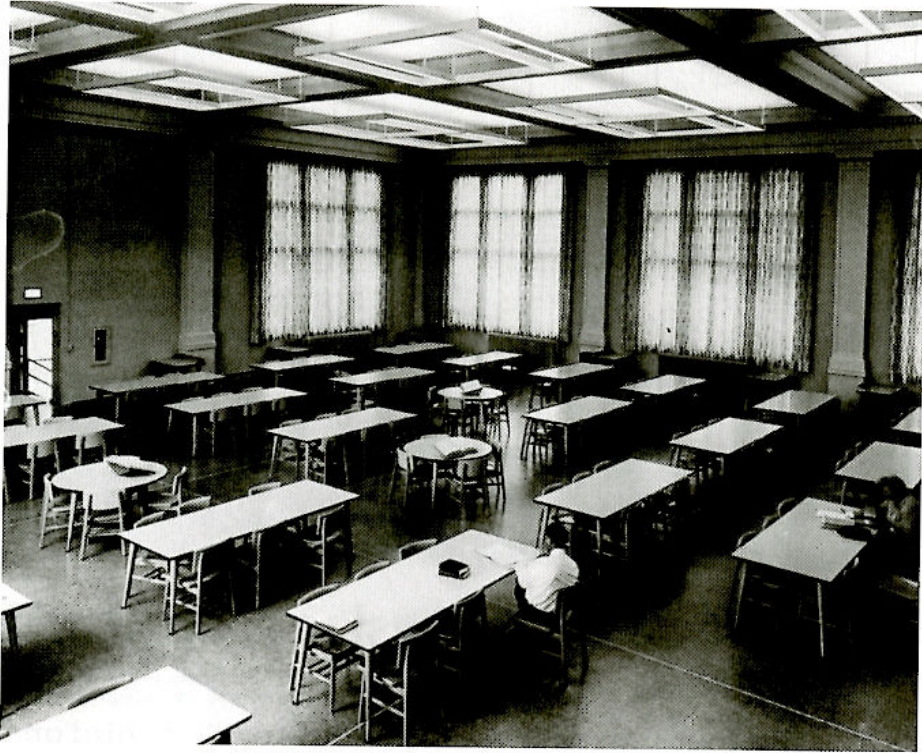
Located between the Priory and Van Dyke Gymnasium

In 1946 Father Ludolph R. Jacobs, O. Praem., convinced Abbot Pennings to request a war surplus building available from Camp McCoy. In 1947 it was disassembled and moved to the campus, erected between Main Hall and the Fox River. It became known as the "Quonset Hut," or "War Surplus Science Building," or "Science Hall Annex." After the new Minahan Science Hall opened in 1967 the Annex became useless for academic functions and was occupied by the SNC facilities until it was demolished in 1980.

Kenwood Apartments

No Date or Picture

This four-unit apartment building on 500 Third and Marsh Streets was used as a student housing unit until 1956 when the offices of president and vice president were temporarily moved here during a remodeling of Main Hall. Again, with the renovation of the Abbot Pennings Hall of Fine Arts, the music and theatre offices were temporarily housed here. The Kenwood complex was demolished in the 1900's to expand parking lot No. 6.



Joseph M. Conway Memorial Library

Berners, Schober & Kilp, architects
Cost: \$200,000 for remodeling Francis H. Boyle Hall

In 1960 the College Library on the southwest end of Boyle Hall was moved to the third floor and completely remodeled. Gifts from private sources, but primarily a gift of \$75,000 in the will of Joseph M. Conway and an additional gift of \$25,000 from his wife, Jeannette, financed this move and renovation.

The large "study hall" on the third floor became the reading room and periodical section. The old dorms on the third floor were changed into stack rooms for nearly 100,000 volumes, library offices, and lounges.



St. Joseph Hall

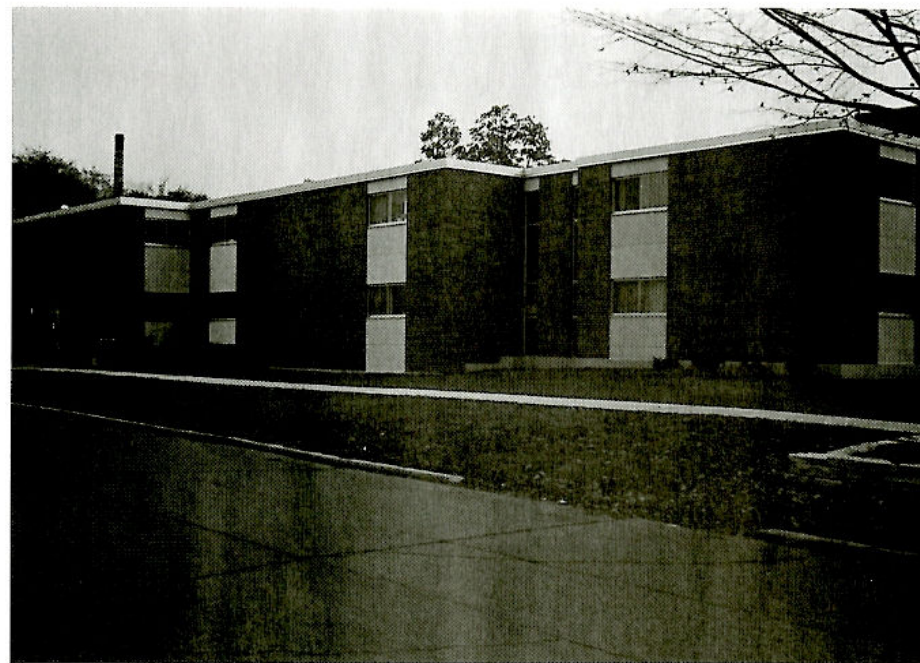
1961

This was the former St. Joseph Parish elementary school built in 1916-17. The College purchased this school when a new parish school was built in 1961. The education department occupied the building for a time and the art department located here too. In 1994 a renovation added a new elevator and restrooms to make it handicapped accessible. The new Carol and Robert Bush Art Center opened in 2002 and the art department vacated St. Joseph Hall. Plans are underway to utilize appropriately the classrooms and offices in St. Joseph Hall.



Clementine Devroy Infirmary and Hall 1964

This building has an interesting history. It was the former Ryan Funeral Home, purchased and remodeled as a residence hall for girls, then as an infirmary, and again as a residence for students. The building was a gift of Dave Devroy of Green Bay in memory of his wife Clementine, and was named Clementine Devroy Hall in 1964. In 1975 it became the residence of a group of students interested in American studies, specifically the psychological, sociological and political aspects of that field. It was removed to make way for the Austin E. Cofrin Hall in 1989.



Dorm IV Grant Street

The original planning of this \$700,000 building was a faculty office building adjacent to a new library, but its immediate use became a residence hall for women students. It was occupied in 1967 by 136 students. Then in May of 1977 plans changed and ground was broken in the open courtyard for the construction of a three-level library, leaving Dorm IV areas as the contiguous office, study, reading, and special collections rooms.



The Coffeehouse

Reid Street

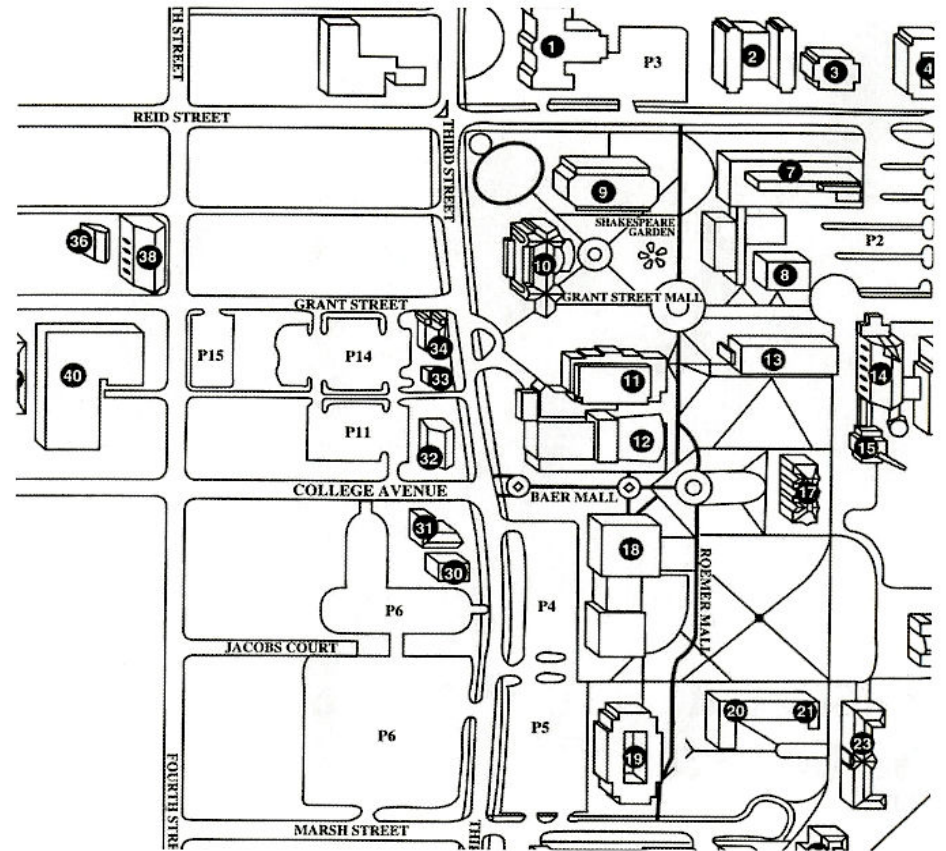
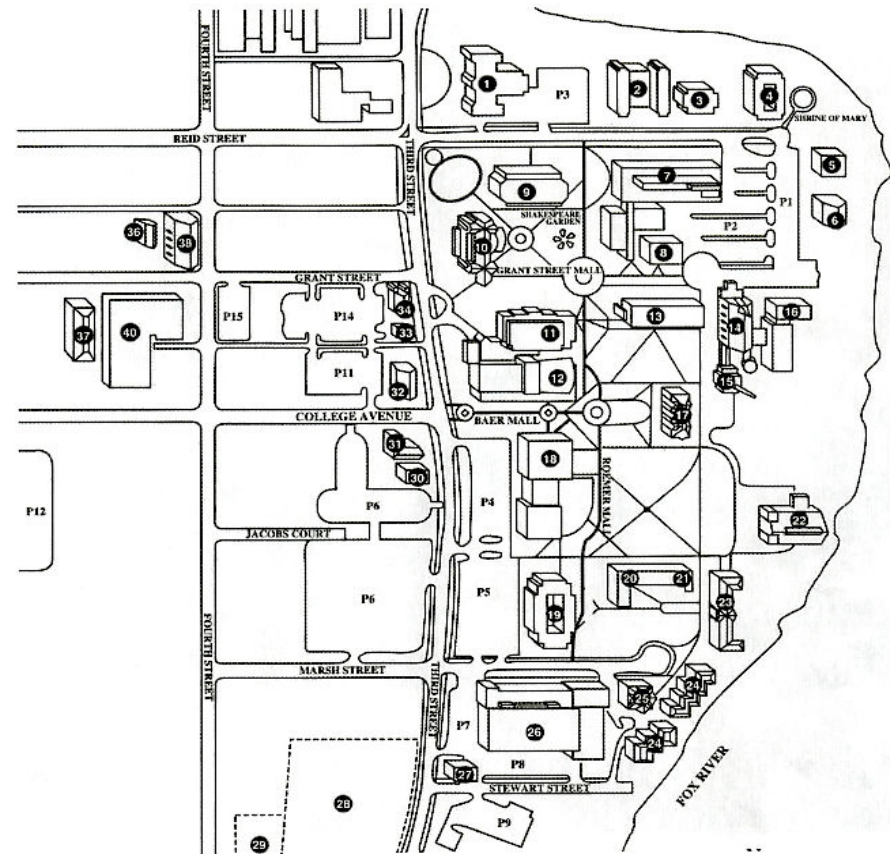
This house on Reid Street called “the old grey house across from Mary-Minahan-McCormick” in an article of the 1973 DES PERES, was used for various college acts during the school years 1973 to 1977. The house was removed to make a parking lot for the Dr. John R. Minahan Science Building, but the name “Coffeehouse” was retained and became one of the nine committees that made up the College Activities Board (C.A.B.). CAB planned, promoted, and sponsored Coffeehouse performances after 1977.



Office of Housing and Residential Life

Various Locations

This office was first located in the Frank J. and Margaret Sensenbrenner Memorial Union from 1977 to 1979. It was moved to Main Hall in 1979, then to 119 Reid Street during the renovation of Main Hall, and finally to 406 Third Street as the Office of Residential Life. This is the former home of Julia Conley.

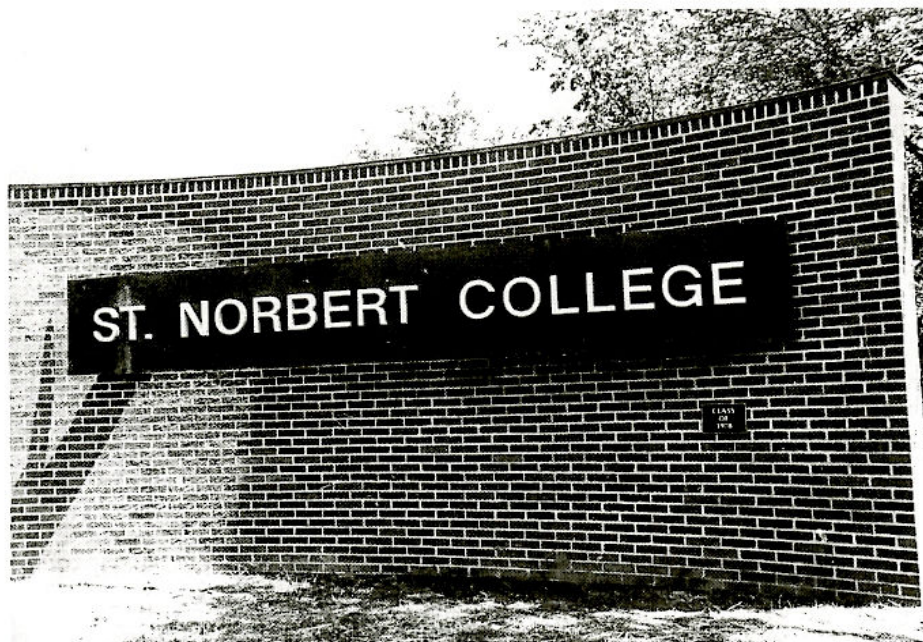


First Street Between Reid and Grant Streets

The original De Pere First Street no longer exists on College maps. It originally ran from St. Norbert Abbey on the south to Reid Street on the north, with residential homes along the west side of the river. With the removal of Chi Rho Commons on the south end of the street, and the building of Riverside South Hall, Vander Zanden Hall, and the Shrine of Mary along the east side of the street, the campus has removed the name of first street, but the street for campus use is still there.

Second Street Until 1974

Second Street, like First Street, is no longer shown on College campus maps. It extended from Reid Street on the north to Stewart Street on the south. In 1974 the street was prepared for water drainage and then covered with a concrete walk surrounded by grass. It was called "Campus Pedestrian Mall" until 1980 when it was renamed the Lee J. Roemer Mall in honor of Lee Roemer who served on the St. Norbert College Board of Trustees from 1971 to 1980. It is normally referred to as "The Mall."



First Permanent Marker at St. Norbert College 1978

For St. Norbert's first 80 years no permanent marker bearing the school's name existed. The graduating class of 1978 changed that when they financed the red-brick wall marker at the north entrance to the campus in April of 1978. It was on the corners of Grant and Third Streets. Shiny Steel letters spelling "ST. NORBERT COLLEGE" were added in time for Commencement Day, Sunday May 14.

This landmark was 10 feet high and 24 feet long. De Coster Construction Company of Green Bay donated the bricks. When Austin E. Cofrin Hall was built in 1992 and the Frederick and Patricia Baer Mall was dedicated on September 15, 1993, a clearly defined main entrance to the campus was evident. The marker was removed.



Van Dyke Hall Former Van Dyke Gymnasium

All sporting events moved to the new Schuldes Sports Center for the 1979-80 school year. Van Dyke Gymnasium was renamed Van Dyke Hall for use by the facilities/maintenance department of the College until they were removed in 1998 and the hall became the remodeled Campus Center.



Micke Grocery Store

619 Third Street

Before the campus extended south of Stewart Street the Micke Grocery Store on the corner of Third and Stewart streets was serving the neighborhood. The College purchased the store for \$40,000 from the former owner, Mary Micke, who lived in the upstairs apartment.

In November of 1982 the Office of Personnel Services moved from the Dr. John R. Minahan Science Hall to this building at 619 Third Street. In the fall of 1996 the College remodeled the building to provide additional space and brighter quarters for the renamed Human Resources Office.



Official Presidential Residence

1983

A home known in De Pere as "The Crow's Nest" at 935 North Broadway became the home of President Thomas A Manion and his family in 1983. The home was built by Joseph G. Lawton in 1858 and went through several ownerships before purchase by the College in 1983. The home was sold by the College in 1996 with the president's move from the east side of De Pere to the west side of the city.

