



WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

June 21, 2012

The Honorable Paul Soglin  
Mayor of the City of Madison  
Room 403, City-County Building  
210 Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd  
Madison, WI 53703-3345

Dear Mayor Soglin:

This letter is to notify you that additional documentation for a previous nomination for the following property located in the City of Madison has been received by our office for submittal to the National Register of Historic Places:

**Bascom Hill Historic District (Additional Documentation)**

In accordance with "Procedures for the Certification of Local Governments in Wisconsin" a copy of this nomination addendum has been transmitted to the Madison Landmarks Commission for review and comment.

The report of the Commission will be forwarded to you for your recommendation regarding the nomination addendum. The Commission's report and your recommendations should be transmitted to our office within 60 days of the Commission's receipt of the documentation, in accordance with the Certification of Agreement between the City of Madison and the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Review Board.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (608) 264-6501 or [daina.penkiunas@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:daina.penkiunas@wisconsinhistory.org).

Sincerely,

Daina Penkiunas  
National Register Coordinator

cc: Chair, Madison Landmarks Commission

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

**historic name** Bascom Hill Historic District (additional documentation)  
**other names/site number**

**2. Location**

<b>street &amp; number</b>	Generally bounded by Lake Mendota, Library Mall, University Avenue, Lathrop Drive, and Bascom Hall	N/A	<b>not for publication</b>
<b>city or town</b>	Madison	N/A	<b>vicinity</b>
<b>state</b> Wisconsin	<b>code</b> WI	<b>county</b> Dane	<b>code</b> 025
			<b>zip code</b> 53706

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

Name of Property

County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- structure
- site
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

contributing	noncontributing
6	buildings
4	2 sites
1	1 structures
2	2 objects
13	5 total

**Name of related multiple property listing:**  
(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

15

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/ college

EDUCATION/ library

LANDSCAPE/plaza

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/ college

EDUCATION/ library

LANDSCAPE/plaza

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque

Classical Revival

Gothic

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone, brick

walls stone, brick

roof slate, synthetics

other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Education
- Politics/Government
- Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1851-1969

**Significant Dates**

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Conover & Porter; Koch, H.C.; Ferry & Clas;  
Peabody, Arthur; Weese, Harry

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous Documentation on File** (National Park Service):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 46 acres

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

See Continuation Sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

**11. Form Prepared By**

**name/title** Elizabeth Miller  
**organization**  
**street & number**  
**city or town**

**state** WI

**date**  
**telephone**  
**zip code**

Name of Property

County and State

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional Items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	date
organization	telephone
street & number	zip code
city or town	state WI

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1

Bascom Hill Historic District (additional documentation)  
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

**Start description on line below**

When the Bascom Hill Historic District was listed in 1974, it did not include a full inventory of resources contained within its boundaries. This amendment establishes an inventory of all current resources of sufficient size and scale within the listed boundaries, provides their contributing and non-contributing status, and discusses major resources not discussed in the original nomination.

<u>Name</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>Date</u>	<u>C/NC</u>
Bascom Mall ("College Hill")	1851 (1890, 1906)	C
North Hall	1851	C (NHL)
South Hall	1855	C
University Hall (Bascom Hall)	1857 (1895, 1907, 1926)	C
Assembly Hall and Library (Music Hall)	1878-79	C
Mining Engineering & Heating Station (Radio Hall)	1885-87 (1893)	C
Science Hall	1888	C (NHL)
Hydraulic Laboratory (Water Science and Engineering Laboratory)	c. 1890 (1905, 1915, 1929)	C
University of Wisconsin Armory & Gymnasium	1894	C (NHL)
Engineering Building (Education Building)	1900 (1910, 2009)	C
State Historical Society	1900-01	C (NRHP)
University Club	1908 (1912, 1924)	C
Lincoln Statue and Exedra	1909, 1918	C
Botany Building (Birge Hall) <sup>2</sup>	1910-12 (1956, 1980)	C
Memorial Union	1926-28 (1938, 1956, 1964)	C
Memorial Union Terrace	1928 (1969-70, 1986-87)	C
Lake Lab (Hooper's) <sup>3</sup>	1931 (alt 1980)	NC
Carillon Tower	1934-35	C
Law School	1938 (1958, 1963, 1995)	C
Library Mall	1956-58	C
Library Mall Hagenah Fountain	1958	C
John Muir Park	1959	C
Social Sciences Plaza	1962	C

<sup>1</sup> Names in parentheses refer to other common names for the buildings. Numerous buildings have been assigned dedicatory names; these are typically not included in this list.

<sup>2</sup> The underground Magnetic Observatory, constructed in 1876, is located under the Birge Hall greenhouses and is considered a part of Birge Hall.

<sup>3</sup> The upper story of the building, containing the laboratory, was removed in 1980, after the nomination of the district. Because of this alteration, this building is currently considered to be non-contributing.

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Section 7 Page 2 Bascom Hill Historic District (additional documentation)  
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

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Limnology Laboratory	1962-63	C
Humanities Building	1966-69	C
Memorial Union Lakeshore Rehabilitation	1967-69	C
Elvehjem Art Center	1967-69	C
Pedestrian Bridge over Park Street	1968	C
Helen C. White Hall	1969-71, 1986 <sup>4</sup>	C
State Street Mall	1975-76	NC
State Street Mall Stage & Podium	1976	NC
State Street Mall Clock	1976	NC
State Street Mall Fountain	1976	NC
Robert E Gard Storytellers' Circle	2010	NC

**Brief Description**

The Bascom Hill Historic District encompasses 34 resources. The 1974 National Register nomination for the district specifies the period of significance as 1851-1969, beginning with the execution of the plan for "College Hill" and the construction of North Hall, and extending through the construction of the latest contributing building, Helen C. White Hall. Therefore, all those resources that were constructed during the period of significance, and that retain sufficient integrity to convey their original association as college buildings, are considered contributing elements in the Bascom Hill Historic District. In the original nomination, the University Club, the Lake Lab and the Sanitary Engineering and Pumping Station (the Hydraulics Laboratory) were considered for replacement and received non-contributing status in the official count. However, only the Lake Lab has been altered since the original nomination and continues to be considered non-contributing. The University Club and the Hydraulics Lab retain a high degree of integrity and have long been considered contributing resources to the historic district. The new count reflects this status. The district contains 28 contributing resources and six non-contributing resources. In addition, present throughout the district are numerous resources that are too small to count, such as markers, memorial boulders, plaques, planters, and benches.

Several of the contributing resources in the district were not discussed in the original nomination of the district, in the report "Bascom Hill Historic District" (an addendum to the original National Register nomination dated April 30, 1974), or in individual nominations. Those that merit additional description are detailed below.

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<sup>4</sup> The Lake Safety Tower, constructed in 1986-1987, is an addition to the Helen C. White Library.



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Bascom Hill Historic District (additional documentation)  
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

Bascom Mall, planned as “College Hill” in 1850, is partially described in the report, “Bascom Hill Historic District.” The plan, prepared by the Board of Regents Building Committee, specified a “main edifice, fronting towards the capitol” at the top of the hill, with a broad “avenue, two hundred and forty feet wide...bordered by double rows of trees.” A roadway and two dormitories (four in all) were proposed for either side of the avenue.<sup>5</sup> As the university grew, the “avenue” was maintained with few changes. By 1875, the roadways had become walkways.<sup>6</sup> By 1890, a roadway had been constructed in front of Bascom Hall (then called “University Hall”), joining Lathrop Drive (behind the present location of Birge Hall) to Observatory Drive.<sup>7</sup> Sometime between 1906 and 1910, a sidewalk was installed across the quadrangle, between North and South Halls.<sup>8</sup> In 1920, University Hall was renamed “Bascom Hall.” Since that time, the quadrangle has been known as “Bascom Hill.” The roadway that ran in front of Bascom Hall appears to have been open until at least 1941.<sup>9</sup>

The Lincoln Statue (1909) is the lone contributing object on the Bascom Mall. Initially, the statue was erected farther down the hill. In 1918, the terrace and exedra on which the statue sits was constructed, and the statue was moved to its present location. Nearby are two markers that identify the graves of Samuel Warren (1838) and William Nelson (1837), two men who died while Madison’s Wisconsin Territorial Capitol was being constructed.

The Memorial Union Terrace was primarily designed by Charlotte Peabody, who was then working in the office of the State Architect, Arthur Peabody (her father). Charlotte had graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1921, and then completed a three-year course of study at the Cambridge (Massachusetts) School of Domestic Architecture and Landscape Architecture. The Cambridge School offered professional training to women, and had been established by two professors from Harvard University (which did not admit women at that time). The Union Theatre wing, finished in 1939, included an addition to the terrace along its east and north (overlooking the lake) sides. In 1964, the flagstones were replaced with the existing pavement. In 1967, nationally-prominent landscape architects Dan Kiley and Peter Ker Walker designed the Lakeshore Rehabilitation structure, which created a concrete walkway along the shore, with steps descending to the water. Finished in 1969, this resource incorporates a mooring area and dock (north of the University of Wisconsin Armory and Gymnasium). The Terrace was expanded toward the lake in 1986-87, and includes a small stage. There are two markers on the site: the Class of 1936 memorial plaque and a historical marker adjacent

<sup>5</sup> “Second Annual Report of the Board of Regents of University of Wisconsin, January 16, 1850,” in Educational Documents, Wisconsin, January 1850, (Milwaukee: Sentinel Gazette Power Press Print, 1850), pp. 58-60..

<sup>6</sup> *Experimental Farm and College Grounds Belonging to the University of Wisconsin*, (N.p.: n.p., c. 1871-1875), retrieved July 10, 2009, <http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/webZ>.

<sup>7</sup> *Plat Book of Dane County, Wisconsin*, (Minneapolis: C.M. Foote & Co., 1890).

<sup>8</sup> Historical photo, published in Quinn Evans Architects, “Cultural Resources Inventory,” a report prepared for the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System 2006-2007, p. 29.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 40.

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Bascom Hill Historic District (additional documentation)  
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

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to the Union Theater. Near the Terrace, abutting the northeast corner of Helen C. White Hall, stands the Lake Safety Tower, a more recent addition to the White Hall.

Library Mall was constructed in 1956-58, according to plans prepared by William Longenecker, then director of the University of Wisconsin Arboretum. His design was primarily a planting plan, but featured a formal layout with diagonal pathways that may have been inspired by earlier ideas. Several plans for the space in front of the State Historical Society had been presented over the years, beginning with one by O.C. Simonds (1901), another by Laird and Cret (1908), and a third by William J. Hagenah (1945). None of the earlier plans was carried out. There is one contributing object set in the center of Library Mall: the Library Mall Hagenah Fountain (1958, designed by William J. Hagenah). Resources that are present, but too small to count, include concrete benches, a flagpole and a historical marker (the latter two located close to the State Historical Society).

John Muir Park was created in 1959 in an area formerly referred to as Bascom Woods. The site was formally dedicated in 1964.<sup>10</sup> In addition to the recently erected Robert E Gard Storytellers' Circle (2010, NC), the park contains numerous resources that are too small to count. Among these are the Muir Knoll boulder (1918), the Rasmus Anderson boulder (1937), the Thomas Brittingham runestone (1963), a concrete bench, and four small stone markers: Class of 1889; Class of 1891; Class of 1893; and Class of 1897.

The Social Sciences Plaza is really a part of the William H. Sewell Social Sciences Building, which is not in the Bascom Hill Historic District. However, the plaza is included within the boundaries of the district, and is therefore counted as a contributing site. The 85 foot Carillon Tower (1934-35), designed by Arthur Peabody, is located in the plaza, although it predates the plaza. Another resource that predates the plaza is the Blackhawk boulder (1913), set in a planter. The Blackhawk boulder is too small to count, as are the planters and concrete benches placed around the plaza.

The Pedestrian Bridge over Park Street was constructed in 1968. This concrete arch structure crosses from the Humanities Building to the west walkway that climbs Bascom Mall. It should also be noted that another pedestrian bridge crosses from the Humanities Building to Vilas Hall over University Avenue. Erected c. 1972, this concrete arch bridge is only partially in the district, and so is not included in the count.

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<sup>10</sup> Two structures have been removed since the Bascom Hill Historic District was listed. These were the Class of 1961 Overlook (designed by Richard Tipple, 1962), and the cistern, erected in 1915 to provide water for the pumping station below.

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Bascom Hill Historic District (additional documentation)  
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

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The National Register nomination for the Bascom Hill Historic District (1974) states:

[T]he Bascom Hill Historic District represents the most historic cluster of institutional buildings in Wisconsin. Even beyond this it is a sensitive mix of urban and natural spaces comprising a memorable and coherent whole significant in itself. The buildings themselves are of major statewide significance, but together in their interrelationships and their relation to “College Hill” and Madison’s natural environment they become part of the greater identity that is the Bascom Hill Historic District.<sup>11</sup>

The highly intact buildings, structures and sites in the district continue to retain those qualities for which they were listed nearly 40 years ago.

\_\_\_\_\_ End of Description of Physical Appearance

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<sup>11</sup> Jeffrey M. Dean, “Bascom Hill Historic District,” Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, September 12, 1974, Section 8, page e.

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\_\_\_Insert Statement of Significance

\_\_\_End of Statement of Significance

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Bascom Hill Historic District (additional documentation)  
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

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         Insert References

Major Bibliographic References:

Dean, Jeffrey M. "Bascom Hill Historic District," Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Listed September 12, 1974.

Experimental Farm and College Grounds Belonging to the University of Wisconsin. (N.p.: n.p., c. 1871-1875. Retrieved July 10, 2009, <http://digioll.library.wisc.edu/webZ>).

Plat Book of Dane County, Wisconsin. Minneapolis: C.M. Foote & Co., 1890.

Quinn Evans Architects. "Cultural Landscape Inventory." University of Wisconsin – Madison, 2006-2007.

University of Wisconsin – Madison. Bascom Hill Historic District. Madison: University of Wisconsin, 1974.

         End of References

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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Section 10 Page 1

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\_\_\_Insert Boundary Descriptions

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

**Boundary Justification:**

\_\_\_End of Boundary Descriptions

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Section photos Page 1

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\_\_\_Insert Photo Descriptions

\_\_\_End of Photo Descriptions

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\_\_\_Insert Figures

\_\_\_End Figures