

**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

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

**1. Name**

historic Old Main (Livingston C. Lord Administration Building)

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Southwest corner of Lincoln Avenue & Seventh Street  not for publication

city, town Charleston  vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 22nd

state Illinois code 012 county Coles code 029

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name State of Illinois - Eastern Illinois University

street & number

city, town Charleston  vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Illinois

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office, Coles County Courthouse

street & number Jackson Street

city, town Charleston state Illinois

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

1. Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey  
title 2. Illinois Historic Structures Survey was this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

1. November, 1973  
date 2. October, 1973  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Division of Historic Sites

city, town Springfield state Illinois

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Old Main, the first building at what today is Eastern Illinois University, was constructed between 1896 and 1899. The building is an unsophisticated interpretation of the early Medieval style. The building has a central square tower which reaches to a height of one hundred twenty two feet. Four turrets of uneven height top the tower. Two three story octagonal towers project from the front of this central section. The central section is flanked by two two story wings that are adjoined to three story wings on each end of the building. A castellated roofline is carried out around the building. Rough, Indiana Bedford limestone is used for the building that covers nearly an acre of land. Over one hundred windows appear in the north, or front, facade.

At the main entrance, granite columns support three Gothic arches. Inside, a large vestibule is open to the top of the second floor. Two octagonal marble columns support a balcony and its decorative cast iron railing around the second floor level. Just below the balcony is an elaborate cornice with classical detail. The central hallway of the building runs perpendicular to the main entrance and divides the interior longitudinally into halves. Oaken door frames, an oaken dado, and classical pilasters line the central hallways on all floors.

Today the building is occupied by administrative offices and a few classrooms. Throughout the years the interior has been remodeled and repartitioned extensively to meet the school's changing needs, but only slight alterations have occurred on the exterior. In 1940 fire slides were put on the outside of Old Main. One, hidden by the central section remains, but the others were replaced in 1978 by two fire escapes at the rear of the building. These were designed and painted to coordinate with the limestone edifice. In 1957 the original exterior oaken doors were replaced by new tubelite aluminum "panic" doors. The original circular drive at the front of the building was removed and a small parking lot built in 1960 when the street was widened, taking more than fifty feet off the original lawn. At the same time a smaller circular drive was cut on the east, or Seventh Street, side of the building. Finally, in 1979 and early 1980 the original wooden window frames were replaced with aluminum ones to accommodate a modern ventilation system. Despite these changes Old Main still retains its original character.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ 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 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** 1896-1899      **Builder/Architect** George H. Miller, Architect

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Old Main is significant as the core of the original campus of Eastern Illinois State Normal School, today Eastern Illinois University. It stands as a landmark of that institution.

Eastern Illinois State Normal School was created in 1895. Old Main was begun in 1896 and completed in 1899. It stood alone on the campus until 1909 when Pemberton Hall was completed. Old Main originally housed all the school offices and classrooms, an assembly hall, library, and gymnasium. Through the years its use has changed according to the school's needs. In 1956 the building was renamed the Livingston C. Lord Administration Building to honor the school's president from 1898 to 1933. Today the building is occupied by administrative offices and a few classrooms. Other buildings have been added to greatly increase the size of the campus, but Old Main, as the building is still commonly called, remains a landmark of the University.

Old Main was completed in 1899 by Alexander Briggs, a local contractor. The building is an unsophisticated interpretation of the Medieval style. Its castellated roofline and central tower are characteristic features of other buildings constructed during the administration of Governor John P. Altgeld (1893-7). Altgeld promoted the style as an inexpensive means of providing attractive and useful structures. The castellated roofline was achieved simply by carrying the mason work above the cornice line then breaking that line. This feature further distinguishes the building as the core of the original campus and a landmark yet today. In the Second Biennial Message to the State Legislature, Governor Altgeld said he hoped the building would be "a monument to the intelligence, the civilization and the humanity of the people. . . of Illinois."

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Coleman, Charles H., "Eastern Illinois State College: Fifty Years of Public Service," Eastern Illinois State College Bulletin 189 (January 1, 1950).

Lahr, Terry, "Historical Society to Help Renovate Old Main," Eastern News, March 2, 1979.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property two acres

Quadrangle name TOLEDO NW, IL

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UMT References

A 

1	6	3	9	8	9	3	0	4	3	7	0	9	6	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone		Easting		Northing					

C 

Zone		Easting		Northing					

D 

Zone		Easting		Northing					

E 

Zone		Easting		Northing					

F 

Zone		Easting		Northing					

G 

Zone		Easting		Northing					

H 

Zone		Easting		Northing					

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Northeast coern of a tract of land located in the southwest quarter of section 14, township 12 north, range 9 east of the third principal meridian. The tract measures 51 68/100 rods east and west by 123 84/100 rods north and south.

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 Kathryn A. Vogt

organization Historical Administration Major

date January 12, 1981

street & number Department of History

telephone 217-581-3310

city or town Charleston,

state Illinois 61920

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *David K...*

title Director, Illinois Department of History

date 4/9/81

For HCRS 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

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ILLINOIS

STATE

Date Entered JUN 16 1981

Name

Location

Old Main (Livingston C., Lord Administration  
Building)

Charleston  
Coles County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy  
Honorable Alan Dixon  
Honorable Daniel B. Crane

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

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*Old Main*

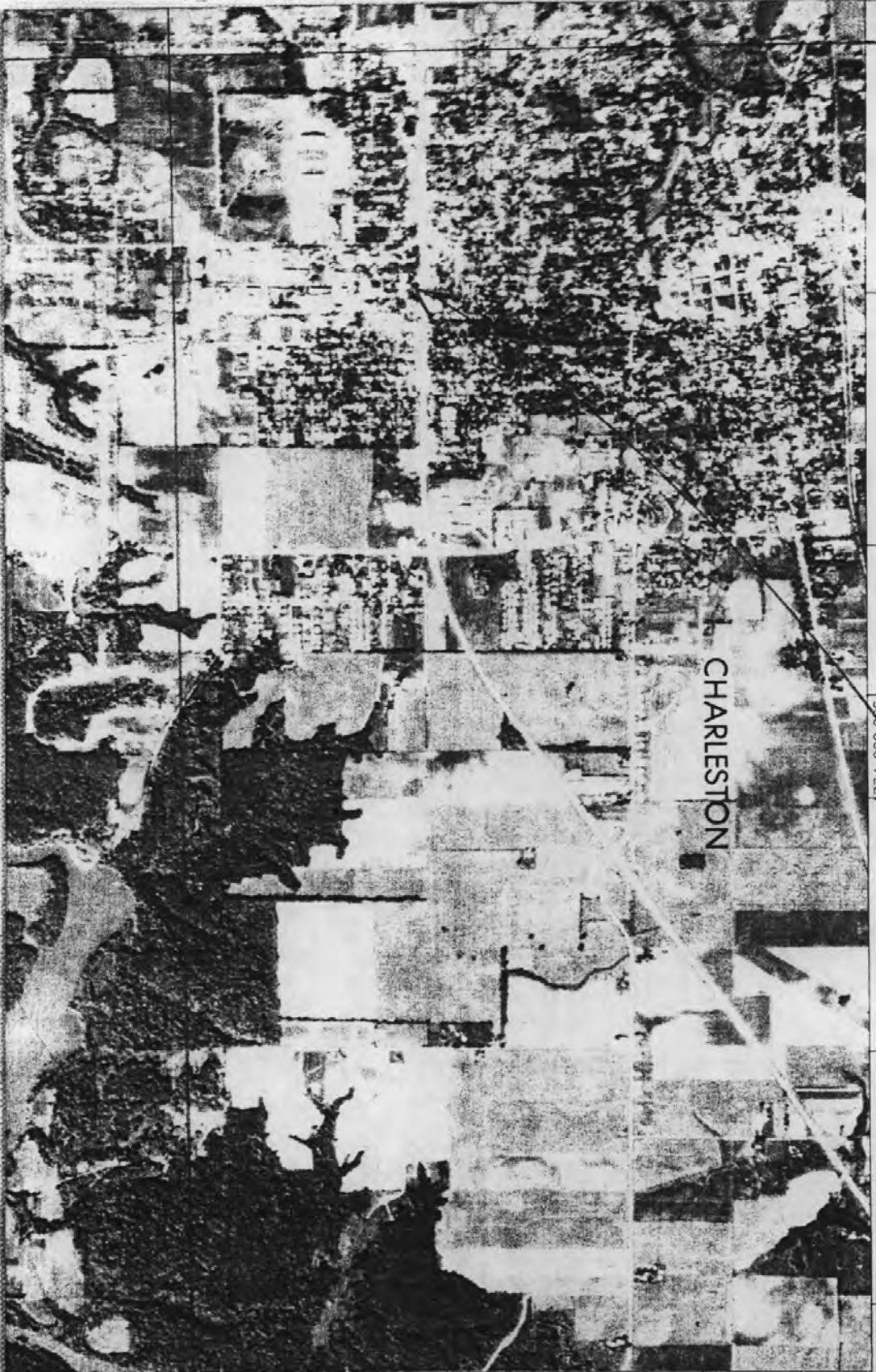
TOLEDO NW QUADRANGLE  
ILLINOIS  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES ORTHOPHOTOQUAD

CHARLESTON

550 000 FEET

88°07'30"  
39°30'

1 030 000  
FEET



4370

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

CO-H-0  
15  
200313

1. Name of site:  
Common "Castle"; "Old Main"  
Historic Main Building

2. Location:

<u>Street and number</u>	<u>Township</u>	<u>Section</u>
South side of Lincoln Ave., between 4th and 7th streets		
<u>City or Town</u>	<u>Zip Code</u>	<u>Range</u>
Charleston	61920	
<u>County</u>		
COLES		

3. Classification:

Category (check one)	Integrity (check one)
( ) District (X) Building	( ) Altered (X) Unaltered
( ) Site ( ) Structure	( ) Moved (X) Original Site

4. Ownership

( ) Private	(X) Occupied
(X) Public	( ) Unoccupied
	( ) Preservation work in Progress

Access to Public

(X) Yes (X) Restricted ( ) Unrestricted ( ) No

Present Use ( check one or more)

( ) Agricultural	( ) Industrial	( ) Religious
( ) Commercial	( ) Military	( ) Scientific
(X) Educational	( ) Museum	( ) Transportation
( ) Entertainment	( ) Park	( ) Other (specify)
( ) Government	( ) Private Residence	

5. Ownership of Property

<u>Owner's name</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
<u>Street and number</u>	
<u>City or Town</u>	
<u>State</u>	<u>County</u>
	<u>Zip Code</u>

6. Description

Condition  
(X) Excellent ( ) Good ( ) Fair ( ) Deteriorated ( ) Ruins ( ) Unexposed  
Is there a program of preservation underway? ( ) Yes (X) No

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

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

EDUCATION





8. **Specific Date:** Erected 1896-1898.

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

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (pre-historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Military            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture               | <input type="checkbox"/> Music               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication             | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education      | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture    |  |

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates.) Use additional sheets if necessary.

The first building erected at Eastern Illinois University. It has always been the administration building.  
9. Form prepared by:

Name and title: Keith A. Sculle Date: April 1973  
Organization: Illinois Historic Sites Survey  
1505 W. Kirby, Apt. 3  
Street and number: Champaign, Illinois 61820  
City or town: \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for references 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.

...On The Road To Somewhere: Warbler; Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois, 1918-1968. No other bibliographical information given. See page 6 of this publication for the history of this building.