

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania
COUNTY: Allegheny
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Cathedral of Learning

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Forbes Avenue at Bigelow Blvd.

CITY OR TOWN:
Pittsburgh

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
14th

STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42 COUNTY: Allegheny CODE: 003

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Bath	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
University of Pittsburgh

STREET AND NUMBER:
Forbes Avenue at Bigelow Blvd.

CITY OR TOWN:
Pittsburgh

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Allegheny County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
414 Grant st.

CITY OR TOWN:
Pittsburgh

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Landmark Architecture of Allegheny County, Pa.

DATE OF SURVEY: 1967 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

STREET AND NUMBER:
Old Post Office, Allegheny Sq. W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Pittsburgh

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

ENTRY NUMBER: _____

DATE: _____

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cathedral of Learning culminates the Late Gothic Revival period of architecture. It is fundamentally a steel frame skyscraper, incorporating the set backs that Sullivan aesthetically realized and which were later incorporated into the zoning standards of such tall massive buildings. The frame is encased with a limestone Gothic veneer. The forty story structure consists of a four or five story high base and a succession of rising central and wing elevation. The rectangular massing and elevations are symmetrical. The windows are rectangular occurring in couple or triple patterns that culminate in lancet arches with late style tracery. This created the effect of multi-story Gothic arch windows. Numerous corner buttresses and pinnacles with blind arcades enhance the Gothic feeling. The fluting effect that flanks the windows and piers further stresses the verticality of the building and is reminiscent of its contemporary modernistic style. The silhouette and detailing are both calm, yet majestic and stately. The Cathedral towers above its surroundings and on a clear day can be seen from miles around. Because of its continued use, it is in excellent condition. It is the "centerpiece" of Oakland and a highly important visual element in Pittsburgh landscape.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1926-37

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although built in 1926-37, we feel the Cathedral of Learning has great architectural importance not only to Pittsburgh but to American Architecture as well. Traditionally, the cathedral was the greatest architectural monument any city or town could build. Victorian Age philosophy broadened the definition when Woolworth requested that his building represent a cathedral to industry. Other skyscraper followed suit incorporating many of Cass Gilbert's massing and detail concepts. But the most unique of these Gothic Cathedrals was Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning. Architectural historian, Marcus Whiffen stated that "in the literal sense of the word, Late Gothic Revival architecture culminated in the University of Pittsburgh's skyscraping Cathedral of Learning". It was a joint product of Chancellor John G. Bowman's educational idealism and the general elan of the 1920's. It is a summation and a symbol of that expansive era. The commission was put into the hands of Charles Z. Klauder of Philadelphia, who had in his day achieved a considerable reputation as a designer of academic structures, commercial and residential buildings. Klauder (1872-1938) won national recognition in collegiate Gothic architecture. His firm served as architects and advisors to such well known educational institutions as Princeton, Cornell, Wellesley, Albion College, Michigan, Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis, The Peabody Museum at Yale, Penn State, and Stephen Foster Memorial, Heins Memorial Chapel and The Cathedral of Learning at University of Pittsburgh. He was recipient of numerous awards for distinguished work in the field of institutional design.

The original plan called for fifth-two floors. The school children of the city were asked to contribute their pennies and dimes to the "cloud-capped" tower of culture. Because many protested the impracticality of the structure, the height was fixed at forty stories. The Depression of 1929 also influenced the abridged height and lengthened the construction period. The exterior was completed by the Second

Continued

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Pennsylvania	
COUNTY Allegheny	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Cathedral of Learning—Significance continued

World War but only recently have parts of the interior been finished. The great Commons Room, a vaulted Gothic tour de force room on the ground floor, was finished in 1939; in its Romantic, theatrical way, it is quite effective.

On the ground floor is the ring of Nationality Rooms, representing peoples who settled in Pittsburgh. These classrooms are "unique in the world." They are "gifts to the University of Pittsburgh from ethnic groups of Allegheny County. They combine antique and specially created furnishings from Classical, Byzantine, Romanesque, Renaissance, Tudor, Empire periods, as well as peasant architectural designs. The committees spared no expense of time, effort artistic talent, craftsmanship, or materials in the building of the eighteen nationality rooms, which were designed by artists and architects from the nations represented. They are used daily for teaching and directly contribute to a deeper appreciation of ethnic cultural heritages. This experience is enjoyed not only by students and faculty, but also by thousands of visitors from around the world who view the classrooms every year. Additional Nationality Rooms are planned for the future.."

Functionally, the dissenting voices of the 1920's were correct in many respects. Many changes were necessary for the building to operate functionally. Most of the classrooms had to be placed on the first five floors where they could be more easily reached. As the University expanded its programs and increased its enrollment, additional buildings and libraries were built. Now many administrative and departmental offices are in the Cathedral in addition to the remaining classrooms. Historically and academically the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning is unique in conception and form. It is fundamentally a modern steel frame skyscraper. Its Gothic Veneer is more than a Romantic remnant from the nineteenth century. The steel frame Gothic skyscraper of education architecturally symbolizes the great value the people of Pittsburgh place on education. It is modern in structure and form, Romantic in detail, and symbolic of man's future through education.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

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

PENNSYLVANIA
ALLEGHENY COUNTY
Cathedral of Learning

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE one

Acreeage of Nominated Property - 14 acres

UTM references

A 17 588890 4477610	B 17 588990 4477340
C 17 588780 4477270	D 17 588670 4477390

Using the above (A,B,C,D) UTM references:

line A-B is South Bellefield Street
line B-C is Forbes Avenue
line C-D is Bigelow Blvd.
line D-A is 5th Avenue

The property boundary begins at the intersection of 5th Avenue and South Bellefield Street (A), and proceeds along South Bellefield Street in a southeasterly direction to the intersection of Forbes Avenue and South Bellefield Street (B), then proceeding along Forbes Avenue in a southwesterly direction to the intersection of Forbes Avenue and Bigelow Blvd. (C), then proceeding along Bigelow Blvd. in a northwesterly direction to the intersection of Bigelow Blvd. and 5th Avenue (D), then proceeding along 5th Avenue in a northeasterly direction to the begining point (A, the intersection of 5th Avenue and South Bellefield Street).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Van Trump, James D. And Ziegler, Arthur P., Jr. Landmark Architecture of Allegheny County, Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, 1967, p. 101
 Van Trump, James D., "The Gothic Revival in Pittsburgh," Charette 37:8 August, 1957, pp. 14-18.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 14 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	5	88	7	90	44	77	3	80	B							
	ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				
C										D							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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: James D. Van Trump, Research Director
 ORGANIZATION: Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation DATE: March, 1973
 STREET & NUMBER: Old Post Office, Allegheny Square, W. TELEPHONE:
 CITY OR TOWN: Pittsburgh STATE: Pa.

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: Executive Director
 Pa. Historical Museum Commission

DATE: 8/25/75

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

