

Ambrose Hall
Name of Property

Scott County, Iowa
County and State

Statement of purpose for this amendment to the Ambrose Hall nomination

Ambrose Hall on St. Ambrose University campus was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976 as one of the first properties listed within the City of Davenport. It was listed as part of efforts by St. Ambrose University to recognize the significance of this building on their campus, with those efforts also including retaining the building as part of campus and initial restoration work over the subsequent year. Over the last 44 years, a number of changes have occurred to Ambrose Hall, with an exterior restoration project to bring the building closer to its original design as the most recent project. As work is being considered on the LeClaire Gymnasium portion to the rear, this amendment has been filed to clarify that LeClaire Gymnasium is an addition to Ambrose Hall per National Register of Historic Places standards and thus part of the original Ambrose Hall listing. The early nomination also lacked some basic information that is considered required for current nominations, and this nomination amendment thus addresses those holes as well.

This amendment project was thus designed to meet several goals to update the Ambrose Hall listing:

- ... Boundary: The original nomination does not include a boundary description or map outlining the NRHP boundary for the Ambrose Hall listing. This lack is part of the need to clarify the nomination through this amendment to demonstrate that the LeClaire Gymnasium portion is part of the listed property. The boundary has been clearly stated within this amendment and appropriate mapping has been provided.
- ... Narrative description: The narrative description on the 1976 nomination was brief, with only one page primarily describing the exterior of the building and chronology of the initial additions. No interior description was provided, which is currently required for nominations. Additionally, due to the age of the nomination, the exterior description contains outdated information. Thus, the narrative description was identified as a section that was required to be rewritten for the nomination amendment, both providing additional information missing in the original nomination and providing current information on the design and features of the building. Floor plans are also provided in this nomination amendment, which were not included in the original nomination. The statement of integrity was likewise updated to reflect the current description and condition of the property.
- ... Period of significance: The period of significance was defined in the original nomination as a broad period, without specific dates. Thus, definition of a period of significance was included as a need for the amendment, which also helps clarify the significance of the property and context of the LeClaire Gymnasium addition. With the research completed for the amendment project, a more specific period of significance related to the historical significance and architectural development of the Ambrose Hall was included within this amendment. The period of significance also has been extended beyond what would have been included in a 1976 listing to include the middle 20th century interior remodeling (not yet 50 years old at that time but completed prior to the listing) which reflects the continued role of this property as a significant component of St. Ambrose University campus and community.
- ... Statement of significance: The statement of significance on the 1976 nomination was likewise brief, with one page outlining the significance and history of the property. Areas of significance checked included education and architecture, and thus the property was listed under Criteria A and C. The nomination amendment has thus clarified the statement of significance and these areas of significance. Additional information was added for the subsequent historical development section to support these areas of significance as related to Ambrose Hall and its additions, including LeClaire Gymnasium. Historic photographs were also added to this section to demonstrate the evolution of the construction of the building and its appearance throughout the decades.
- ... Photographs: The original nomination only had four exterior photographs of Ambrose Hall submitted as part of the nomination, and these photographs are now over 40 years old. The amendment thus includes photographs of all elevations of the building and its additions, as well as representative interior shots, per current NRHP standards.