

MANHATTAN'S HISTORIC LANDMARKS & DISTRICTS

Anderson Hall

Since its completion, Anderson Hall has been the administrative center of Kansas State



Anderson Hall, Kansas State University

University. Known simply as the “College Main Building” from 1884 to 1902, Anderson

Hall is a visual landmark that has become a symbol of the university.

Anderson Hall is a noteworthy example of high Victorian Gothic design. Conceived as a single design in 1878, the structure was constructed in stages as the necessary appropriations were made by the state legislature and completed in 1884.

In 1901, Anderson Hall was named after John A. Anderson, second president of the college (1873-1879). He was one of the most outspoken, energetic and controversial figures ever to hold the post. While serving as pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Junction City, Anderson condemned the administration of Kansas State Agricultural College (KSAC) in 1872 for failing to carry out its purpose as a land grant college. The Kansas State Board of Regents selected Anderson as the president of KSAC in 1873 though he had “no practical or

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theoretical knowledge of agriculture”. The Regents praised “his vigorous, pushing, talented” nature.

Anderson’s administration reversed previous policy. Courses in Greek and Latin were replaced with courses in farming, woodworking, blacksmithing, and printing. He also relocated the campus to its current location to allow room for expansion. Most Kansans seemed to approve of Anderson’s direction and in the fall of 1878, he was elected to Congress from the First District.

*Source: Kansas State Historical Society
National Register of Historic Places - Nomination Form*