

## Buildings and Landmarks Review – Research Team Report December 10, 2021

### Process

In [November 2020](#), the Buildings and Landmarks Committee made four recommendations to the campus administration. They were:

1. Recommended action on immediate findings from research committee.  
The Research Team researched and reviewed 23 buildings and identified no major concerns at this time. One landmark was reviewed, the Abraham Lincoln statue in the Centennial Student Union, and was identified as a major concern. Change is recommended. Please see the Research Team report for more details.
2. Recommendation for university policy development. The advisory team recommends that the President and Provost consider the need for a campus policy and process that would guide potential challenges to the suitability of a building or landmark name. Colleges and Universities around the country have developed such policies and processes in the past decade. We further recommend that any new naming on campus be aligned with the principles above.
3. Representation of people of color and their accomplishments should be the top priority for the naming of any new buildings that are not philanthropically funded. The committee also recommends that acknowledgement of these individuals could be done through the naming of signature rooms/locations on campus (i.e., CSU Ballroom and Armstrong Lecture Halls) and/or statues, monuments, etc. This will help us acknowledge the individuals in a timelier fashion while not having to wait years before a new building is constructed.
4. Recommend that remaining named outdoor spaces and landmarks be reviewed.

Following presentations to Meet and Confers in February 2021, the Research Team of the Buildings and Landmarks Committee began implementing recommendation four, continue reviewing named spaces on campus. The work continued in fall 2021.

The Research Team utilized the same research and review process as developed in fall 2020 and described in the [November 2020 report](#).

### Review

**The Research Team researched and reviewed seven campus named spaces in the fall of 2021.**

Below is a chart that very briefly documents what was reviewed, why individuals were recognized, and if the Research Team identified concerns. All compiled research material and meeting notes are available upon request.

Minor concerns – An action or statement was identified that does not reflect current University values but based on current information and the research questions posed it does not indicate that change is needed at this time. These are indicated with a footnote, so the minor concern is documented. No further action is recommended unless new information is identified.

Major concerns – An action(s) and/or statement(s) was identified that does not reflect current University values and the research questions posed indicate significant concerns. These are specifically addressed following the chart.

**One named space reviewed as part of this report was identified as having major concerns.**

Name of Building or Landmark	Individual(s) Researched	University Affiliation	Reason for Recognition	Concerns
Radichel Herbarium	Darlene, William, Brad Radichel	Friend of university	Donor	None at this time.
Dr. Mary T. Dooley Map Library	Mary T. Dooley	Faculty	Outstanding years of service; donor	None at this time.
TBD Room	Florence Cobb	Faculty	Outstanding years of service	None at this time.
Dale and Wilma Johnson Alumni Room	Dale and Wilma Johnson	Alumni	Donor	None at this time.
Kiyo Suyematsu Music Library	Kiyo Suyematsu	Faculty	Outstanding years of service; donor	None at this time.
Kirk Ready High Performance Lab	Kirk Ready	Faculty	Outstanding years of service	None at this time.
Daniel Buck Conference Room (Centennial Student Union)	Daniel Buck	Friend of university (Normal School); former dorm named after him	“Father” of normal school	Major Concerns (See below)

### Major Concerns – Daniel Buck Conference Room (CSU 203)

Background – Daniel Buck

#### Connection to Minnesota State University, Mankato

Daniel Buck was a strong proponent for the creation of a second normal school. As a state legislator, Buck found it essential to enhance his town’s economy. He is attributed with fundraising the necessary \$5,000 to get the second State Normal School in Mankato. Buck was named the Second State Normal School Prudential Committee chairman and served on the Minnesota Normal School Board. He was actively engaged in the developmental stages and honored as “The Father of the Mankato Normal School,” which led to the first dormitory being named Daniel Buck Hall.<sup>1</sup>

He was elected as a legislator in the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1865, later elected to the state Senate in 1878, and in 1892 he became a Minnesota Supreme Court justice.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, he took

<sup>1</sup> Lass, *Minnesota*, 56.

<sup>2</sup> Lass, *Minnesota*, 11.

part in other ventures, having founded the Mankato National Bank and serving as vice-president of the Citizens' National Bank.

### **Centennial Student Union (CSU) Room Named After Him**

In 1988, the Student Union Board, the Student Senate, and President Margaret Preska made the decision to name four rooms in the student union after former lower campus buildings, including Daniel Buck.<sup>3</sup> There is a photograph and small description of Buck's contribution to the University located in CSU 203.

### **Concern - Daniel Buck's Legacy with Indigenous People**

In 1904, just before his death, Buck self-published a book on native conflicts in Minnesota. His *Indian Outbreaks* emphasized "white superiority and denigrated the Dakotas and all other Indians, whom he saw as savages."<sup>4</sup> In a review written in 1966, it is noted that much of Buck's work was drawn from existing sources; implying that his expressions were not uncommon for the period.<sup>5</sup> Local newspapers described his book as an "interesting volume," which reportedly sold well.<sup>6</sup> Daniel Buck had many experiences that shaped his opinions of natives. He often represented clients who reported damage caused by Dakotas, had been an eyewitness to the incarceration and execution of Dakota individuals, and had felt personal ramifications to the conflicts.<sup>7</sup> William E. Lass cites this history as a possible correlation between Buck and his strong negative feelings towards indigenous peoples.<sup>8</sup>

In his article, "A Review: Histories of the US-Dakota War of 1862," William E. Lass wrote, "Buck reflected the popular Social Darwin-ism of his day declaring that "the master race of the world is Caucasian," he regarded race relations as a fundamental cause of the war. He especially deplored "vicious and renegade" whites who spurned racial purity to mate with Indian women and produce offspring who "have disgraced the Anglo-Saxon blood, and fallen below that of the Indian himself." This "violation of nature's purest laws," insisted Buck, led to the pervasive, evil influence of unscrupulous traders and untruthful interpreters on government Indian policy. The best solution, he thought, would be the federal government "absorbing and bleaching out the color of the aborigines and cross-breeds," thus producing "a better humanity."<sup>9</sup>

Although Daniel Buck made significant contributions to the founding of the Mankato Normal School, his documented disparaging attitudes about indigenous people are counter to the University's current values of diversity and inclusion. The university has a Strategic Diversity and Inclusion Plan goal to "provide an inviting, safe, and supportive environment for people from diverse backgrounds and perspectives."<sup>10</sup>

**We recommend that the naming of this space be reviewed.**

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<sup>3</sup> "Mankato State," *Reporter*, January 26, 1988, pg. 2.

<sup>4</sup> Lass, *Minnesota*, 11 and Buck, *Indian Outbreaks*, pg.10-11, 283-284.

<sup>5</sup> "Off The Press," *Minnesota History*, 1966, p. 147.

<sup>6</sup> "Judge Buck is Dead," *Minneapolis Tribune*, May 22, 1905.

<sup>7</sup> Lass, "A Review," *Minnesota History* (Summer 2012), p. 48-49 and "Editorial," *Mankato Weekly Review*, October 4, 1859.

<sup>8</sup> Lass, *Minnesota*, 11.

<sup>9</sup> Lass, "A Review," p. 48-49 and Buck, *Indian Outbreaks*, pg.10-11.

<sup>10</sup> Strategic Diversity and Inclusion Plan, 2019-2022, Minnesota State University, Mankato, 2019.

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