

Pieces of Iowa's Past, published by the Iowa State Capitol Tour Guides weekly during the Legislative Session, features historical facts about Iowa, the Capitol, and the early workings of state government. All italicized text/block quotes in this document are taken directly from historical publications with the actual spelling, punctuation, and grammar retained.

Wilton's college



This building, Butterfield Hall, sat on the west side of campus and housed the library, reading room, gymnasium, recitation rooms, laboratories, and chapel.

Wilton's college was established in 1866 as Wilton Seminary. It consisted of eight acres given in two parts by Benedict and Elizabeth Maurer.

The first college building, Butterfield Hall, was a two-story brick construction with a mansard third floor.



The second building, Norton Hall, was built on the east side of campus.

In about 1869, a three-story brick structure, Norton Hall, was built on the east end of campus. The building could accommodate about 50 students and faculty.

The ground floor of the 40-by 70-foot building featured faculty apartments and public rooms. Separate staircases led to the girls' dormitory on the second floor and the boys' dormitory on the third floor. The basement contained the kitchen and dining hall.

In 1871, undergoing the first of many name changes, the campus became Wilton Collegiate Institute.

In 1880, Wilton Collegiate Institute became Wilton Academy, offering high school courses.

In 1894, Wilton Academy became Wilton German-English College, which dissolved about 1910.

After the college dissolved, Norton Hall was converted into apartments but later torn down. The eastern half of the campus was converted into Wilton Park.

Frances Frymeyer's article, written in the mid-1970s, states the remainder of the campus contains the Norton Apartments (Butterfield Hall) and privately owned lots and homes.



Muscatine Weekly Journal and Muscatine Evening Journal, 1868-1871

Wilton Seminary,
AT WILTON JUNCTION,
Muscatine County, Iowa,
COMMENCES ITS
Winter Term Nov. 26th.

PROF. S. R. MANNING, Principal;
MRS. O. MANNING, Preceptress;
Miss JULIA F. HOLT, Teacher of French
and Music.

The Sciences, the several Languages,
Bookkeeping, &c.—whatever belongs to a
College course, will be taught.

A new and commodious Institution Board-
ing House will be in readiness, furnishing
boarding and rooms for self-boarding at low-
est rates. The Boarding House will furnish
furniture, stoves, &c., but not bedding, nor
cooking utensils for self-boarders.

Address REV. O. E. BAKER.
Nov. 6, 1868. w3w

Muscatine Weekly Journal, December 4, 1868

Wilton Seminary.
The Fall Term
OF THIS INSTITUTION COMMENCES
SEPTEMBER 1, 1869.

TERMS LOW. The large, new In-
stitut on Boarding House affords rare
opportunities for boarding self-boarders.

Send for Catalogue.

Address REV. O. E. BAKER, Sup't.
Aug. 6, 1869. w4w

DR. I. P. FISHBURN,
Physician and Surgeon

OFFICE AND RESIDENCE—On Third
street, near Mulberry, in the dwelling occu-
pied by the late Dr. Hershe
[Dr. Fishburn speaks German.] my6w3n

Muscatine Weekly Journal, August 20, 1869

Wilton Seminary,
AT WILTON JUNCTION,
MUSCATINE COUNTY, IOWA,
Commences its
Fall Term Tuesday, September 5th.

This Inst. is now soon to be changed
from a Seminary to a Collegiate Institution.
The course of study will be extended, addi-
tional teachers employed, the institution
building finished and furnished, apparatus
and other facilities supplied, and everything
be done to make the institution worthy of a
good name, and of the patronage of its
friends.

These advantages will be furnished, it is
hoped, in part at the beginning, and in full
during the FALL TERM.

The Commercial Department of the Insti-
tution, conducted by one of the most compe-
tent teachers in this branch of education,
will commence at the same date. Books for
the Commercial furnished by the Principal of
this Department.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC—Piano and Or-
gan—will be taught at ordinary rates.

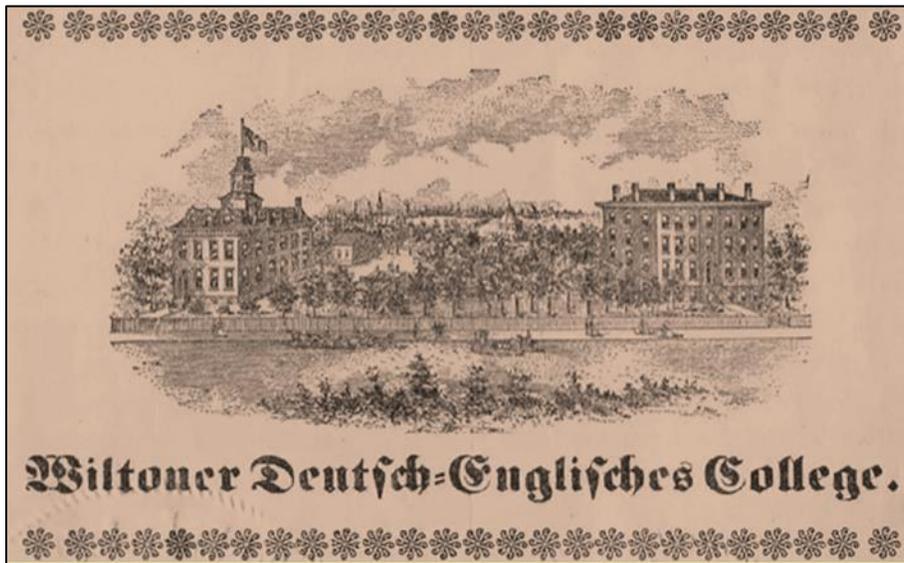
TERMS:—Common Branch, \$5.00; Higher
Branch, 75 cents each. Incidentals \$2.00.

Commercial and Music, at moderate rates.

BOARDING reduced, and rooms for self-
boarding furnished with bedsteads, tables,
chairs and stoves, at low rates.

Students will address and call upon
REV. O. E. BAKER, Sup't.,
Wilton, Muscatine County, Iowa.
Aug. 4, 1871. w4w

Muscatine Evening Journal, August 14, 1871



Wilton German-English
College announcement, 1902

The 1869 catalog lists the following "Rules of the Boarding House":

1. Occupants of rooms must keep them clean – floors, walls, stoves and furniture; and must carefully abstain from marking or otherwise damaging any part of the building or its furniture. Otherwise cleaning and repairing may be done by the Proprietor at the expense of the violator of this rule.
2. Ashes, water, etc. must not be thrown anywhere about the building, but where the proprietor may direct. No smoking is allowed either within the building or anywhere on the premises.
3. Every precaution must be taken against fire.
4. Students are not allowed in the parlor nor in the family room except on business, nor at the Professor's rooms except at hours appointed for the reception of visitors.
Students are not allowed to visit each other's rooms during study hours, or on the Sabbath, except by permission of the Principal or Preceptress.
5. Ladies and gentlemen are not allowed to interchange visits, either at their own rooms or elsewhere, or to indulge any private interviews. When occasion requires, they may meet briefly at the parlor only by permission of the Principal or the Preceptress.
6. Wrestling, running and loud noise are forbidden within the building at any time.
7. Study hours must be strictly observed.
8. The house must be still and the doors will be locked at 10:00 PM.
9. All rules for the regulation of the Boarding House apply to occupants alike in vacation and term time.

Sources:

<https://www.lostcolleges.com/wilton-college>

<http://iagenweb.org/muscatine/biographies1879/wilton.htm>

<http://iagenweb.org/muscatine/wilton-moscow-yesteryear/wilton-college.htm>

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015075070956&view=1up&seq=568>

"The Wilton College" by Frances Frymeyer