

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity House  
other names/site number Anthemios Chapter of Alpha Rho Chi

### 2. Location

street & number 1108 South First Street [NA] not for publication  
city or town Champaign [ ] vicinity  
state Illinois code IL county Champaign code 019 zip code 61820

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide  locally.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ].)

William L. Wheeler / SAHPO 4-16-97  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ].)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- [ ] entered in the National Register  
See continuation sheet [ ].  
[ ] determined eligible for the  
National Register  
See continuation sheet [ ].  
[ ] determined not eligible for the  
National Register.  
[ ] removed from the  
National Register  
[ ] other, explain  
See continuation sheet [ ].

Signature of the Keeper

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity  
Name of Property

Champaign County, Illinois  
County/State

Frat. & Sorority Houses...U-C, U.I.  
Multiple Property Submission

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	0
	buildings
0	0
	sites
0	0
	structures
0	0
	objects
1	0
	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing.**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Fraternity & Sorority Houses at the  
Urbana-Champaign Campus of the  
University of Illinois

**Number of contributing resources**  
**previously listed in the National**  
**Register.**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/education-related housing  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/education-related housing  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Arts & Crafts  
Other: French Eclectic  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
walls Brick  
Limestone  
roof Clay Tile  
other N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity  
Name of Property

Champaign County, Illinois  
County/State

Frat. & Sorority Houses...U-C, U.I.  
Multiple Property Submission

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

# \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

# \_\_\_\_\_

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Architecture

### Periods of Significance

1928-1940

1928

### Significant Dates

N/A

### Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Royer, Danely & Smith Architects

### Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository:

Stewart S. Howe Archival Program, UI

Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity  
Name of Property

Champaign County, Illinois  
County/State

Frat. & Sorority Houses...U-C, U.I.  
Multiple Property Submission

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
16	394450	4439870			

C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing
---------	---------	----------	---------	---------	----------

[ ] See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Karen Lang Kummer, Arch.Historian; Greg Hargus, Chair Preservation Committee

organization Society for the Preservation of Greek Housing date January, 1997

street & number P.O. Box 2765, Station A telephone (217) 328-7222

city or town Champaign state IL zip code 61825

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

#### Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Alpha Rho Chi Corporation, c/o David Lyons, President

street & number 39 West 421 Woodgate Road telephone (630) 443-1837

city or town St. Charles state Illinois zip code 60175

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity House, Champaign, Champaign County, Illinois  
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### Narrative Description

The Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity House, constructed in 1928 and designed by the local architectural firm of Royer, Danely & Smith, stands at the west edge of the University of Illinois campus along busy First Street. Facing west atop a low rise, the house is bounded on three sides (north, west and south) by tall privet hedges. The L-shaped building rises two-and-half stories and carries the mixed qualities of an English-derived Arts and Crafts style residence with French Eclectic influences. Built of brick with metal casement windows, the house's detailing includes a corner entrance tower with an arched limestone entryway, French doors, oval windows, two semi-hexagonal exterior brick chimneys with tall stacks, and tiled hip roof. Vestiges of the original landscaping include stone steps near the north and south ends of the lot with new custom fabricated wrought iron railings and a "Y" shaped flagstone walk leading up from the northern steps and branching northeastward toward the rear and southward to the house's forecourt. The forecourt is raised two steps from the north end and consists of a small grassy area with two trees adjacent to the western hedge and a patio or courtyard within the "L" which was constructed in 1956 of large concrete squares.<sup>1</sup> To the north of the fraternity house is a small single family residence, to the east and south are located large multi-story modern apartment buildings, and to the west across First Street are three historic fraternity buildings. The nomination consists of one contributing building.

### Exterior

The fraternity house is a two-and-half story L-shaped building with steep intersecting clay tile roofs. Masonry in construction, the face bricks used are of various shades of mottled brown and of various textures; the bricks are "culls or seconds" laid skintled.<sup>2</sup> The brick foundation is delineated from the irregular walls by a watertable of soldier bricks; brick quoins, of light buff/brown colors, accent the building's corners. Original metal multi-light casement windows are set in plain wood frames. A belt course separates the taller first story from the second story; the belt course consists of soldier bricks laid below a row of stretcher bricks and capped by a narrow course of roofing tile. Terminating the brick walls is a molded wood cornice. The color of the clay tile hip roof varies through shades of orange, red and buff with the lighter tones placed near the soffit and graduating in shading to the darker shades near the tile ridge; the tile was also purposely laid in staggered courses and with swales. Half-round dormers interrupt the roof plane.

The main (west) elevation has an L-shape with wings projecting to the west and south. The south wing has four bays with the southern three bays consisting of double 12-light French doors with 8-light transoms set below splayed brick flat arches with skewbacks and roofing tile caps and set above double rowlock thresholds; louvered wood blinds flank the doorways. Above the doors, on the second story, are three sets of paired 8-light casement windows whose openings are delineated by stacked brick sides; the building's cornice serves as a continuous lintel. Three half-round dormers are aligned above the windows.

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The entrance tower comprises the fourth bay and, although also two-and-half stories, is slightly higher in height and topped with a tile hip roof and weathervane; the tower's south corner is chamfered. A foundation of Bedford buff ashlar rock-faced limestone sets the tower apart from the main block, although the belt course continues around the tower at the second story.<sup>3</sup> Above the foundation, the stonework continues as a dressed-face ashlar surround with chamfered edges and base stop; the chamfer becomes an intrados molding at transom level. Stone quoins aid the transition between the surround and the brick walls; a small brass plaque engraved "APX" is mounted to the right on the surround and there is a junction box for a light fixture above the plaque. The original wrought iron light fixture was stolen in 1944.<sup>4</sup> The wood entry door is slightly recessed within the surround and is paneled with a large center diamond and flanking corner triangles; the smaller top and bottom sections have square panels. All of the panels' edges are chamfered. A three-light arched transom surmounts the door. Above the entrance and below the brick beltcourse is a row of large stone corbels supporting a narrow stone stringcourse. A paired 8-light casement window highlights the tower's second story and is set in a brick quoin surround with a flat arch, rowlock cornice and tile cap. The window's wood transom has a scrolled wood apron with center drop. In front of the window is a wrought iron balcony supported by large metal strap console brackets. A half-round dormer is set at the edge of the roof over the second story window. The finial atop the steeply pitched hip roof is crowned by a wrought iron weathervane consisting of an eagle with extended talons chasing two pigeons.<sup>5</sup>

The south facing elevation of the west leg has a quadruple 8-light casement window with transom slightly off-center to the east; the window opening has a wide stone lintel and a rowlock sill. The second story has two sets of paired 8-light casements. Between the belt course and soffit and flanking the windows are projecting rowlock bricks set in a decorative diamond pattern. A half-round dormer is centered in the roof.

The west elevation has a large tapered semi-hexagonal center brick chimney with two distinct but joined tall stacks set on angle with elaborately corbelled caps and with small stone shoulders at the belt course level and a stone reducing collar below the stacks. A wrought iron brace rod ties the stacks to the tile roof. Flanking the chimney on the first story are oval windows with rowlock surrounds and four exaggerated keystones made of concrete and roof tile fragments. The below grade basement also has flanking 8-light casements set below the soldier brick watertable in window wells. The main facade's belt course and decorative rowlock diamonds continue across the blind second story.

A brick privacy wall divides the north elevation into two distinct sections: public and service. To the west, the first story of the public section has a quadruple 8-light casement window with transom and details similar to the window on the opposite south elevation; above, on the second story, is a similar belt course, paired 8-light casements and rowlock diamond details. The below grade basement has a triple 8-light casement at the west end and a paired casement off-center to the west; both are set below the watertable in window wells surrounded by pipe railings. The central privacy wall shields the service section and supports the west side of a square brick oriel; the oriel's east side is supported on large double stone corbels. Behind the wall, two steps lead up to the concrete stoop and modern security door, while above

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the door the bottom of the oriel consists of a rowlock segmental arch with exaggerated concrete and tile keystone. A stone belt course is set below a paired 8-light stair casement with 12-light transom. The east half of the basement has an exposed Haydite concrete block wall below the brick foundation and watertable.<sup>6</sup> Situated along side the block wall is a below-grade concrete staircase leading to a modern basement security door located just to the east of the first story concrete stoop. A raised 3-light window is to the east of the basement door. On the first story are two windows: a single 6-light casement to the east of the oriel and a paired 8-light casement with transom at the east corner. The second story, above the service area, has a paired casement window, but the walls are plain, accented only by the soldier belt course and quoins. The attic has half-round dormer windows to the east and west and a large central shed roof dormer with two modern 8-light windows and clay tile shingled sides set above the oriel. A simple metal railing is set atop the oriel.

Continuing around the building, the rear or east elevation has three distinct and unequal sections. The original coal storage bin is located in the northeast corner and consists of a half-story brick unit with a concrete shed roof. Above the coal bin, the building is L-shaped with a large square brick boiler chimney located in the corner. A paired 8-light casement with transom is to the north on the first story with a modern single 8-light casement on the second story. Adjacent to the north side of the chimney stack is a dormer with a modern 8-light window and clay tile shingled sides. The middle section, off-center to the north, consists of a projecting pavilion with gable and hip roof; a vent is located in the gable. A modern at-grade security door is to the south with a narrow 3-light window and double 8-light window to the north set below the soldier watertable in a window well. The first story has a double window with transom, rowlock sill and brick flat arch to the north (these details are repeated on all of the openings on the pavilion); on the second story is a double 8-light casement and there is a 6-light casement in the attic. Over the door are two levels of stair windows, each is a double 8-light casement with transom. The south section echoes the south wing of the main elevation with three pairs of 8-light windows with 8-light transoms aligned with the opposite French doors; the casement windows have similar splayed flat arches and rowlock sills. The second story also has three openings: a paired 8-light casement to the south, a center frosted glass bathroom window, and a single light window to the north. The attic has two shed roof dormers each with two sets of paired 8-light casements; the basement has three sets of quadruple 8-light casements in window wells set below the watertable.

The south elevation is similar in feeling to the west elevation with its center tapered semi-hexagonal chimney with single tall stack with corbelled cap and stone details, soldier course watertable, belt course and quoins. Flanking the chimney, however, are blind half-round niches with rowlock surrounds and four exaggerated narrow concrete and clay tile keystones. The second story is blind and without the decorative diamond pattern. A tile shingled cripple ties the chimney to the roof as does a wrought iron brace.

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**Interior**

The interior of the Alpha Rho Chi fraternity house has a high degree of integrity with only minor modifications made to satisfy modern life safety code requirements. These principally required the insertion of fire-rated doors for separation of the staircases from hallways and for the study/bedrooms, and a fire-rated secondary means of egress from the attic. Modifications were also made to the attic with the conversion of the dormitory space to private study/bedrooms, a stairway, and a game room. The historic interior finishings are composed of plaster and lathe walls and ceilings, original metal casement windows with wood sills and plaster cased corners, narrow oak flooring, and oak baseboards. The first floor multi-panel doors are original; some are arched to fit the openings.

Immediately inside the front door is a square foyer with plaster walls scored to resemble stone; on the side walls are shallow four-centered arched niches that continue down to the narrow oak floor. The ceiling consists of a four-pointed groined vault painted white. Three wood steps lead up to the main hall where four-centered arched openings lead to the main staircase, lounge, library, coat room, visitor's bedroom and secondary stairway. The hallway ceiling has two, four-pointed groined vaults separated by an arch supported on simple stepped consoles; all corners of the hall have wide chamfers.

A wide archway on the south leads three steps down to the lounge with its double beamed ceiling and plain walls with simple narrow oak cornice.<sup>7</sup> Three French doors are located along the west side mirrored on the east by three casement windows with transoms. The dominate feature of the room is the fireplace centered on the south wall and flanked by shallow niches with projecting oak sills supported on single wide plaster consoles. Originally, these niches contained oval 9-light windows similar to those extant in the library.<sup>8</sup> A chapter member's father, Mr. Simon, made the white cast plaster surrounds and chimney hoods for the fireplace in the lounge as well as in the library.<sup>9</sup> The brick hearth is raised and covered by randomly sized tiles, similar to those used on the roof. Decorated pilasters with "APX" plaques and griffin capitals flank the molded fireplace opening; above the opening is a molded lintel and frieze with a plain center shield and flanking cornucopias and acanthus leaf scrolls. Eagles are set over the capitols and an egg and dart molding is at the top. Covering the fireplace is a slanted chimney hood of scored plaster; in the center is a large panel with the Alpha Rho Chi emblem in the center and flowers (roses) at the four corners. The top of the hood where it enters the ceiling is decorated with acanthus leaves, which are symbolically associated with the fraternity.

A similar fireplace and hood is situated in the library which is located off the northwest corner of the hallway. A short hall leads from the main hall to the library; this hall has two small statue niches on its north and south side walls and a barrel vaulted ceiling. The library has a wood beamed ceiling and an oak built-in bookcase along the east wall with open shelves in the upper section and closed storage areas below.<sup>10</sup> Quadruple casement windows with transoms are centered on the north and south walls. Again, the cast plaster fireplace is the focus of the room. Similar in design and detail to the lounge fireplace, here the scored hood has only a center plaque with the Alpha Rho Chi emblem; however, the corners of the



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hood have a reed and tie molding. Flanking the fireplace are two oval 9-light windows set in recesses that extend below the window to a lower wood sill.

At the north end of the main hallway is a large arched opening filled with two oak panel doors separated by a wide center stop. The doorway to the west leads to the fire-rated secondary staircase, the door to the east leads to the visitor's bedroom (now used as a television lounge). This room has casement windows on the east and north walls; a small closet and bathroom are on the west wall, both with original oak panel doors. The bathroom is original and contains a built-in tub, pedestal sink, and older style toilet; the original white terrazzo tile floor with black stripe is extant. A 6-light casement window provides light and ventilation.

The east side of the hallway has two archways; the north arch leads to a coatroom while the south arch leads to the main staircase. The coatroom is recessed and the sides of the recess contain small closets; a panel door leads into the coatroom, used now mainly for storage. Modern double fire doors are set behind the original arched opening leading to the main staircase with its oak treads, risers, metal balustrade and oak handrail. The metal balusters alternate between square and twisted (this detail is repeated on the exterior wrought iron balcony and stone step railings) and the wood stringers have elegant scrolled ends. The balustrade rises gracefully, curving at each landing and ending in a volute newel in the basement; an oak chair rail echoes the handrail on the opposite wall. The staircase rises from the basement to the attic with three intermediate landings; the upper two are lighted by casement windows, the lower landing has a modern exterior door.

The basement contains the dining room, chapter room, kitchen with storage areas, furnace, and porter's room. Floors on this level are mainly concrete, slightly scored in the hallway and dining room as to give a border and center diamond pattern. At one time they were painted or tinted in a two-color scheme. Situated below the lounge, the dining room has two sets of quadruple 8-light casement windows to the east and two mirrored recesses on the west wall; the ceiling is modern acoustical tile with load bearing beams, supplementarily supported by two pipe columns. Behind the dining room to the south is the chapter room; it is plain except for a center brick fireplace with wood mantel. The east end of the basement contains the service area consisting of a pantry with its large original built-in china and storage cabinet, modern kitchen, furnace room and storage areas. The porter's room is located to the north at the base of the staircase; it is now used as a student study/bedroom.

The second and attic/third stories contain study/bedrooms for the chapter members. An L-shaped double-loaded corridor runs down the center of the second story with study/bedrooms on either side. A bathroom is located to the east along the south leg and small phone rooms are at the junction. The attic or third floor's original large dormitory space that ran from east to west has been subdivided to provide secondary egress (a central fire-rated staircase) and additional study/bedrooms to the east. The west end of the dormitory space is extant and is used as a game room. The south leg of the attic contains a bathroom and additional study/bedrooms along the east side; the corridor with half-round dormers for illumination is to the west.

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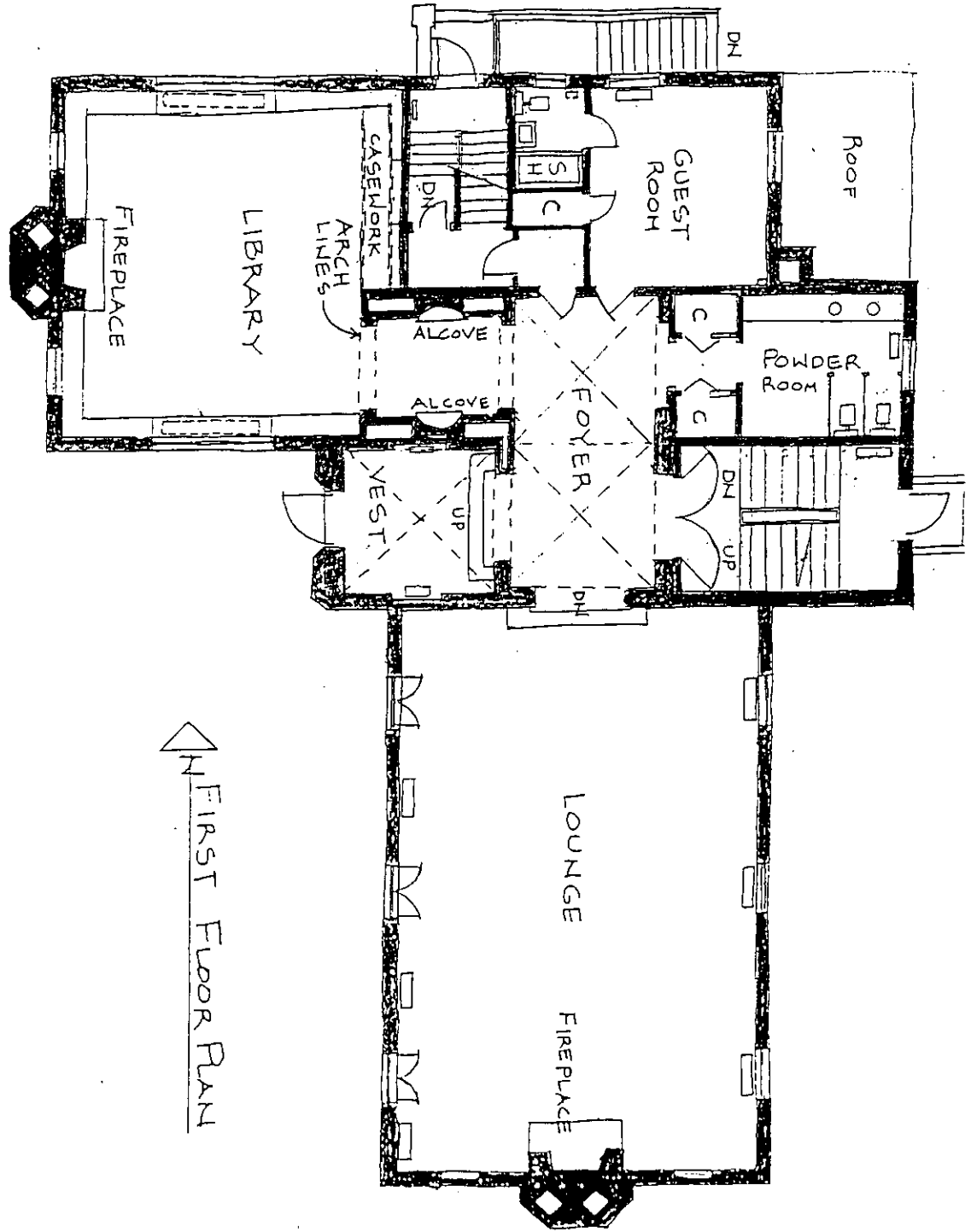
Modifications to the Alpha Rho Chi fraternity house have only been made for life-safety code requirements and to repair damage. Thus, the building retains a very high degree of integrity, both on its exterior and interior.

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↑ FIRST FLOOR PLAN

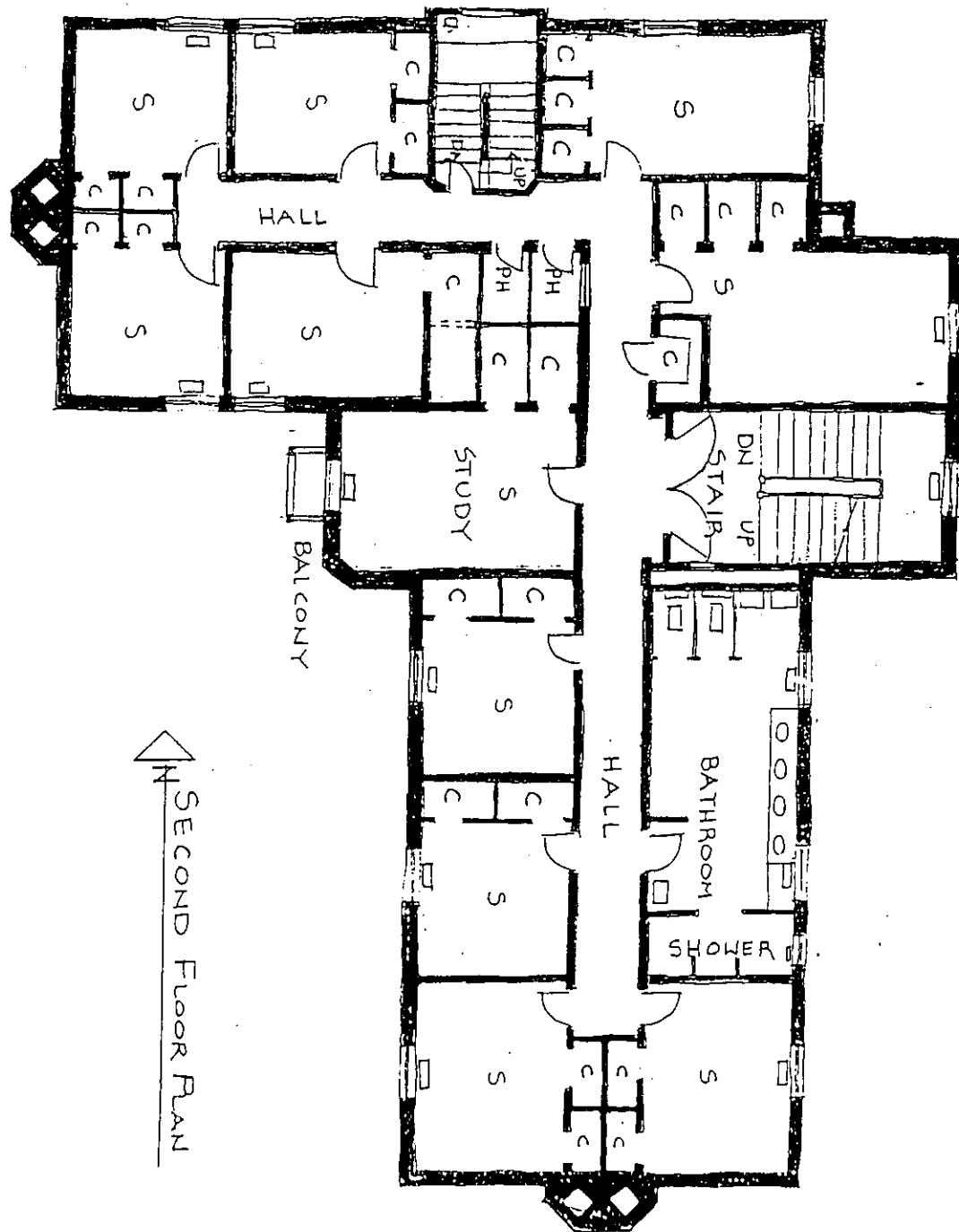
First Floor Plan

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↑ SECOND FLOOR PLAN

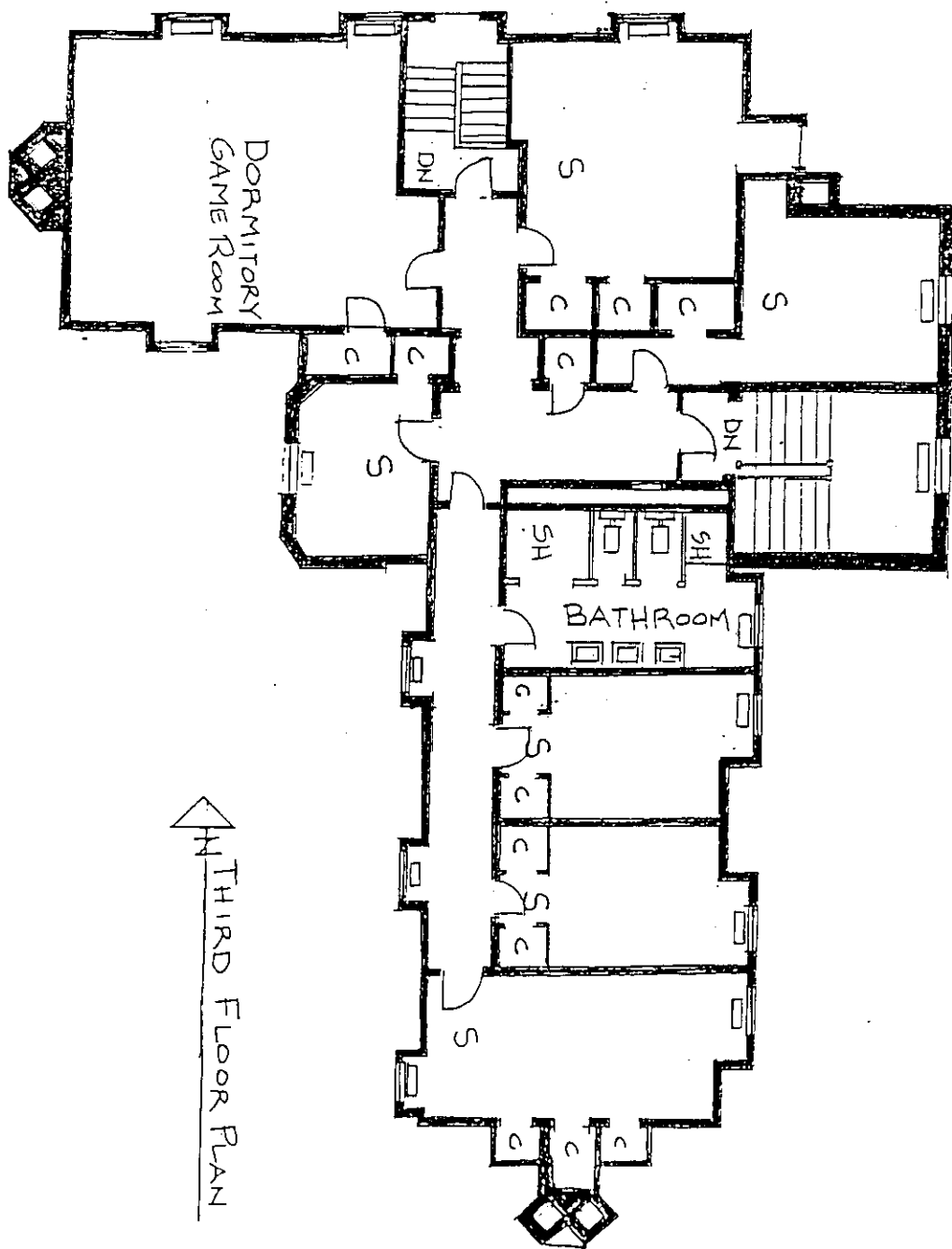
Second Floor Plan

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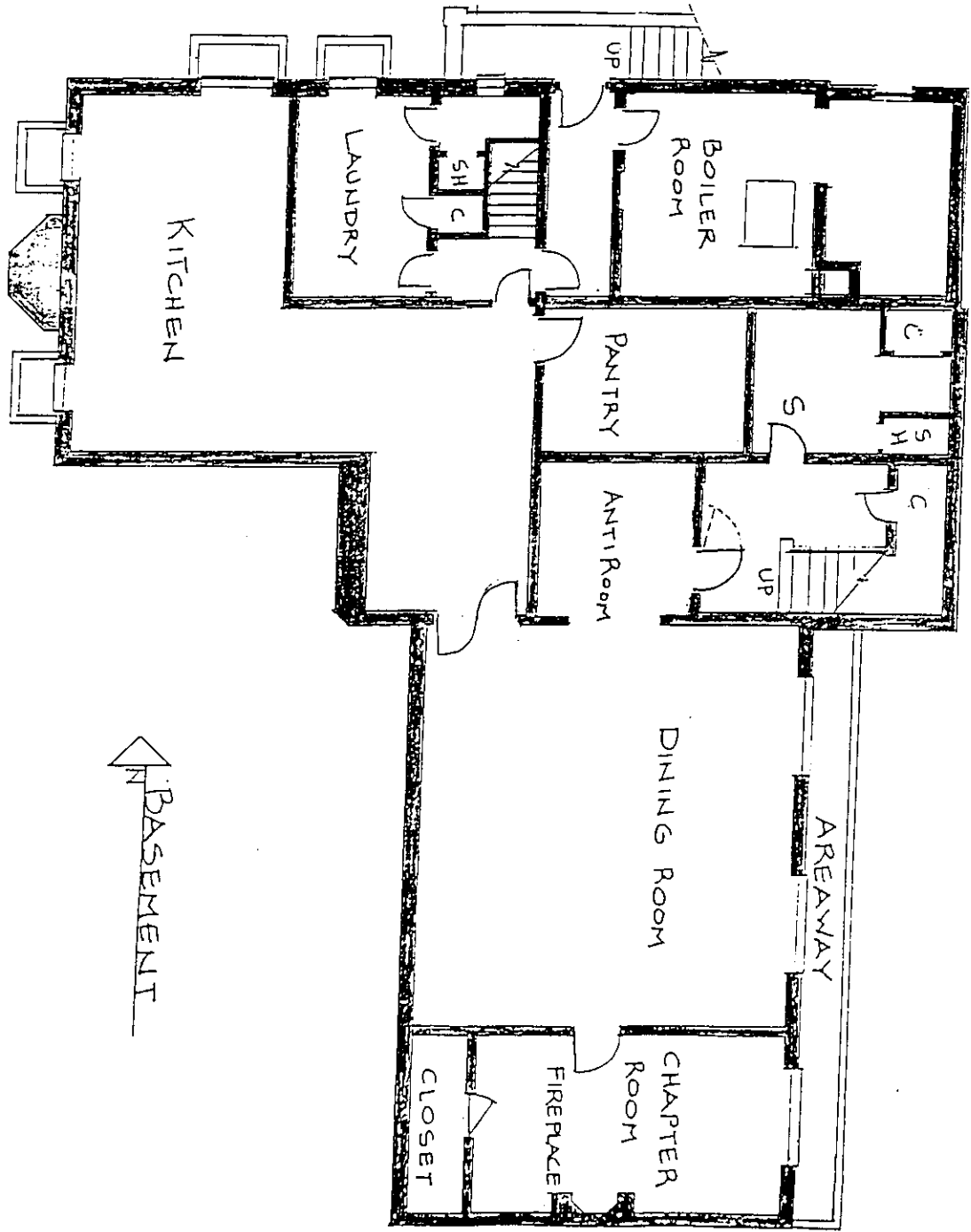
Attic/Third Floor Plan

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Basement Floor Plan

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**Narrative Statement of Significance**

**Summary**

The locally significant Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity House is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of significance of Education, contributing to the broad pattern of higher education at the University of Illinois. It meets the registration requirements of the "Fraternity or Sorority House" property type as defined in the approved "Fraternities and Sororities at the Urbana-Champaign Campus of the University of Illinois." As established in that Multiple Property Documentation form, the Greek Letter Society houses, including Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity House, reflect a way of living which was an important supplementary component of the higher education process during the overall period of significance for the property type (1871-1940). The period of significance for the Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity House, 1928-1940, reflects the date of the chapter's occupation of 1108 South First Street and the ending date of the period established in the Multiple Property form. Please refer to the Multiple Property Listing, "Fraternities and Sororities at the Urbana-Champaign Campus of the University of Illinois" for further information on fraternities and sororities and their social and historical development. It should be noted that Alpha Rho Chi was inadvertently left off the comprehensive inventory of chapter houses in the Multiple Property form.

The building is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, in the area of architecture. The chapter house is a local example of the mixture of Arts and Crafts style architecture as derived from its English antecedents and the French Eclectic architectural style. Characteristics of these styles as shown on the Alpha Rho Chi house include its asymmetrical massing, steeply pitched clay tile roof, picturesque chimneys, corner entrance tower, quoins, and unusual brickwork. Its historic integrity has been maintained over the years. The period of significance is 1928, the year the house was built.

**Criterion A: Education**

Alpha Rho Chi is considered a professional fraternity of architecture and allied arts students. Professional fraternities are the same as social fraternities and sororities except that they focus their membership recruitment on students studying a particular profession. There are twenty-seven fraternities representing sixteen professions in the Professional Interfraternity Conference. The professional aspect of these Greek Letter Societies provides an additional common bond among its members and the fraternities and sororities stress the importance of professional ethics and exemplary practices. Likewise, these societies foster social and athletic functions to promote the members' personal development and each has an alumni association.<sup>11</sup>

Greek Letter Societies served "as useful adjuncts to the University educational system," proving to be important social and disciplinary forces for the university while playing a major role in campus politics and in the formation of strong alumni ties.<sup>12</sup> Managing a house not only provided a training ground for

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leaders, but also provided a means of socialization for students. In addition, fraternity and sorority chapter houses provided much needed housing for students at no state expense at a time when no dormitories existed for men and only a few dormitories were available to women students. Fraternity chapter houses, it was believed, could discipline their members and more easily influence their younger members. Chapter houses were initially rented, and, when funds became available, the chapters built their own houses. It was through the chapter houses that many fraternities kept in touch with alumni because it was the alumni who planned the house, paid for building, and managed the house corporation.<sup>13</sup>

Construction of University of Illinois Greek Letter Society dwellings have been documented in two phases: 1906 to 1917 and following World War I to 1940. With at least 27 chapter houses being built between 1926 and 1930, the late 1920s is considered the peak construction period.<sup>14</sup> Most houses were designed in the popular period revival styles of the time and were outfitted in equally elegant interior furnishings. It was thought that exposing students to "tasteful surroundings in the parlors and living rooms of their chapter houses could not but enhance their education and encourage dignified behavior."<sup>15</sup> Through such well-designed accommodations the mission of the Greek Letter Societies supplemented the University education experience with an emphasis on academic achievement, participation in activities, and overall socialization at the higher education level.

**Founding: Alpha Rho Chi and the Anthemios Chapter**

Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity was founded on April 11, 1914, with the merger of the Arcus Society of the University of Illinois and Sigma Upsilon of the University of Michigan. The union of these two architecture student organizations formed the first national architecture fraternity. The Arcus Society was formed secretly in the autumn of 1911 by a group of 15 men; formal approval for the group was achieved in the fall of 1912 from the Council of Administration and early in 1913 the Society was recognized by the faculty of the University of Illinois. During this time, the organization's meetings were held in the Y.M.C.A. building at the University, but a house was secured during the first semester of 1913-1914.<sup>16</sup> Faculty members of the Society were Dr. Nathan C. Ricker, L.H. Provine, and A.H. Kimball.<sup>17</sup>

A desire for a national organization emerged in 1913 and Arcus member W.M. Wadsworth was delegated to write to the various universities throughout the country and inquire whether other architectural societies might be interested in forming a national fraternity. Letters were sent to Harvard, Washington University, Georgia School of Technology, Columbia University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cornell University, University of Pennsylvania, University of California, and the University of Michigan. As a result of this correspondence, Leo M. Bauer of Arcus at Illinois and Chandler C. Cohagen of Sigma Upsilon at Michigan began formulating the basis of a national architecture fraternity.<sup>18</sup> Two organizations at Cornell University, L'Ogive and Gargoyle, were initially interested, but the Cornell organizations quickly lost interest and were not involved in the founding of Alpha Rho Chi. Bauer and Cohagen met on April 10-14, 1914 at the Hotel Sherman in Chicago to discuss the particulars of a national fraternity. On April 11, both delegates declared the name of the new organization to be "Alpha Rho Chi" and then went



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on to discuss other matters such as a constitution, by-laws, rituals, charter and certificate designs, emblems and articles of association. A general outline on each matter was prepared, but the individual tasks of writing or designing each section was divided between the two charter groups, Arcus and Sigma Upsilon.<sup>19</sup>

The name "Alpha Rho Chi" was chosen, at the suggestion of Professor Nathan C. Ricker, as it was taken from the first three letters of the Greek word for architecture, *αρχιτεκτονική*.<sup>20</sup> Also at Professor Ricker's suggestion, chapter names were chosen from prominent architects from ancient Egypt, Greece or Rome. The Arcus Society became the Anthemios Chapter on May 22, 1914; Anthemios of Tralles was a notable Greek architect and mathematician who planned and built the famous Church of St. Sophia at Constantinople, with the help of Isidorus of Miletus, around 532 A.D.. He also wrote several treatises on physics and mathematics and was quite interested in mechanical devices. Anthemios worked with the properties of burning mirrors and gave the first practical use of the directrix; he could obtain any number of points on a parabola by using the directrix, the focus and two coordinates.<sup>21</sup> Sigma Upsilon of Michigan became the Iktinos Chapter on June 6, 1914, named after the Athenian Iktinos who was involved in building the great public works of Athens along with Phidias, Kallikrates, Pericles and others. He was principally active about 450 to 430 B.C. and designed the Parthenon with Kallikrates which was completed in 418 B.C.. Iktinos was also the architect of the temple of Apollo Epicurius at Cassae, and the shrine of Eleusis in which the mysteries were celebrated.<sup>22</sup>

#### Anthemios Chapter of Alpha Rho Chi

As one of two founding chapters, the Anthemios Chapter had a great influence on the development of the national Alpha Rho Chi fraternity. Members of Anthemios drafted the national constitution and by-laws, designed the fraternity's official badge, revised the design for the coat-of arms, and drafted the charter forms. The new fraternity also retained the old Arcus Society's colors, azure and sanguine. The fraternity motto, "Fidelitas, Amor et Artes," was a combination of the mottos of Arcus Society and Sigma Upsilon. Leo Bauer, the Anthemios Chapter founder, was elected Worthy Grand Architect (president) of the first Alpha Rho Chi executive board.<sup>23</sup>

University of Illinois faculty members played a large role in the founding of Alpha Rho Chi and in its development. Dr. Nathan Ricker and Professor Allen Homes Kimball are singled out for recognition by the fraternity. Not only did Ricker suggest the name of the fraternity, "Alpha Rho Chi," and a system for naming chapters, but also suggested its motto, and many of its underlying principles. He first served as a faculty advisor of Arcus, and later helped Leo Bauer and Chandler Cohagen work out the details for forming the new fraternity.<sup>24</sup> His name is constantly mentioned in correspondence between the two student founders.<sup>25</sup> In recognition and honor of his pivotal role in the fraternity's founding, Nathan C. Ricker was elected the first "Master Architect"; to date, only six other architects have been so honored.<sup>26</sup> For the local Anthemios Chapter, Ricker served not only as faculty advisor, but also took a personal interest in the

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affairs of the chapter. This interest was materially shown with his gift of a \$500 Liberty bond to the house building fund.<sup>27</sup>

The chapter's esteem toward Dr. Ricker was shown in the Anthemios Chapter's presentation to the University of Illinois Department of Architecture of a bronze bust of Ricker. The presentation of the bust occurred on March 15, 1922, the fiftieth anniversary of Dr. Ricker's professional service to the university, and the bust was placed in the Ricker Library of Architecture where it remains today.<sup>28</sup> The original plaster bust, from which the bronze replica was made, was housed at the Anthemios Chapter house in a place of honor; unfortunately the bust was broken some years ago. At the same time that the presentation took place, the Anthemios Chapter announced the Ricker Prize in Architectural History. This prize is open to juniors in Architecture and Architectural Engineering and is awarded for the best treatment of some phase of history of architecture. Ricker taught "architectural history at Illinois for over fifty years, and the prize is essentially a memorial to him."<sup>29</sup>

Anthemios Chapter members were actively involved in all aspects of the life of the university including scholastic, sports, literary, and social. In 1920, members of the fraternity were in band, received scholastic honors, played on the football, baseball, and swimming teams, and comprised the entire art staff of the Illis, a local group.<sup>30</sup> The February issue of *The Archi* for 1921 details many of the activities in which fraternity members participated.

Brother Cheever has recently been initiated into Tau Beta Pi [engineering honorary]. He also belongs to Sigma Tau [engineering honorary] and Daubers [campus publishing society], is on the Illio art staff, plays in the University Orchestra, and is President of the Architectural Club. This Club was reorganized this fall with Brother Cheever as President and Professor Rexford Newcomb, a new honorary member of Anthemios, as faculty representative. Brother Arrasmith made Mawanda, Senior honorary fraternity, last spring. "Arra" was on the varsity baseball team and was chairman of the Illinois Union dance committee. Brother Parr is a member of Tau Beta Pi and Sigma Tau. Brother M.A. Abbitt is art editor of the Technograph this year...Brother Field was on the Sophomore Smoker committee and landed first place and a cup in the poster competition. Brother Poste, who was Captain of the Freshman swimming team last year, is showing up well on the varsity this year. We have entered a team in the intra-mural basketball competition for this winter.<sup>31</sup>

Literary endeavors continued as Anthemios members were heavily involved in the 1924 production of both the *Architecture Year Book* and the *Illio*. Raymond Olson was business manager for the *Architecture Year Book* with Raymond Gauger and Spencer Egbert as his assistants. William Hamby was editor of the *Illio*; he was helped by Homer Pfeiffer, William Rolleston, Spencer Egbert and Kenneth Helms.<sup>32</sup> Scholastically, members continued to achieve success with their induction into scholastic honoraries. Eddie Slygh was elected into Gargoyle and Sigma Tau;<sup>33</sup> Sam Kruse was inducted into the Bard and Scribe, a literary honorary organization, in 1932, and the same year Dick and Bernie Hult lettered in soccer.<sup>34</sup> The

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Ricker Prize, first established in 1922 for a period of ten years, was extended in 1932 for another ten.<sup>35</sup> However, the Prize continues to be awarded today. Four members of the fraternity were inducted into the Gargoyle honorary in 1938: J.B. Palmer, B.E. Kinsock, Richard Binfield, and Don Anderson, while Brother Arden D. Wilson was the drum major for the Marching Band.<sup>36</sup>

Socially too, the Anthemios Chapter was active. The fraternity began the Beaux Arts Ball in the fall of 1929 and it quickly became one of their main formal social events; it continues to be an annual event. Members of Alpha Rho Chi were also socially active with the professional commerce fraternity, Delta Sigma Pi, and the professional agricultural fraternity, Alpha Gamma Rho, both of whom had chapter houses across the street. Members of all these fraternities participated in mutual dances, dinners and sporting events.<sup>35</sup> In 1939, Alpha Rho Chi won the Kiwanis Cup for the best homecoming decorations for the third time; only one other Greek Letter Society had ever won the cup more than once. In honor of this achievement, Alpha Rho Chi was given a permanent cup.<sup>36</sup>

Members of the Anthemios Chapter of Alpha Rho Chi maintained prominent positions after graduation. In the 1920s a number of alumni won prestigious architectural prizes. The Rome Prize in Architecture was won by Homer F. Pfeiffer (1925 graduate) in 1927 after he placed second in 1926. A three-year fellowship for study and travel abroad, the prize carried a \$1500 stipend and an additional \$500 for transportation. Residence and study at the American Academy in Rome was also included. Charles R. Sutton (1926 graduate) won the Rome Prize in Landscape Architecture; the landscape architecture prize was similar to that of architecture. The winner of the Francis J. Plym Fellowship in Architecture in 1929 was William P. Crane, II (1928 graduate); in 1925 this scholarship was won by E.V. Gauger (1923 graduate). The prize was for one year's study in Europe and awarded \$1,200; it was only awarded to graduates of the University of Illinois. The Plym Foreign Scholarship in Architectural Engineering, a similar prize, was awarded to R.J. Pfeifer in 1925 (1924 graduate). The Edward L. Ryerson Traveling Fellowship in Architecture for 1929 was won by Otis Winn (1929 graduate); this prize was given to one architecture and one landscape student and provided for a year's study in Europe with a \$1250 stipend. The Allerton American Traveling Scholarship for the summer of 1929 was granted to Buford L. Pickens (1930 graduate). This scholarship provided \$400 to two juniors with architecture majors to travel during the summer in New England and study early American architecture.<sup>37</sup>

While most Anthemios members went on to various careers in architecture, a number of alumni are particularly well known for their advancement of the profession. Clinton Cowgill (Master in Arch., 1923) taught architecture and architectural engineering at Oklahoma A. & M. and Iowa State College early in his career. In 1928 he moved to Virginia Polytechnic Institute where he established the new Department of Architectural Engineering. The course of study expanded to become the Department of Architecture, headed by Professor Cowgill, including architecture, architectural engineering and building construction. Enrollment expanded accordingly and 17 staff members were hired to teach the curricula. Cowgill was head of the department for 28 years. He was also a long-term member of the Virginia State Board for Examination and Certification of Professional Engineers, Architects, and Land Surveyors, and was

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president from 1934-1937. From 1940-48 he was a member of the National Architectural Accrediting Board and was chairman of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards from 1942-49.<sup>38</sup>

George Keck (1920 graduate) established an independent practice in 1926 and quickly became an established practitioner of the International Style. The Century of Progress International Exposition of 1933-34 gave him an opportunity to promote the style in two houses, House of Tomorrow and Crystal House, and the interior of the Transportation Building. It also showed him the possibilities of solar heating.<sup>39</sup> The November 1940 issue of the Alpha Rho Chi newsletter, *The Archi*, reported on Keck's "Solar House" in Glenview built for developer Howard Sloan. The house was oriented to take advantage of solar heat gain and prevailing summer winds for cooling. Fuel economy was one selling point of the new design and *The Archi* promised to follow up in reporting fuel savings.<sup>40</sup> George's brother and partner, William (1931 graduate), was also an Anthemios alumni and joined the firm after his graduation; together these two men helped further solar technology and prefabrication.

The brothers kept in loose contact with fellow Anthemios alumni as chapter correspondence through the 1940s shows. However, it was a rather contentious relationship as George felt slighted when his modern International style design for the chapter house was rejected in the mid-1920s and he refused to give the chapter any money until the current house was sold and a new International Style house built. William gave money for a newsletter subscription, but also refused to pledge money toward the chapter.<sup>41</sup>

### Criterion C: Architecture

The Alpha Rho Chi fraternity house is a blend of the English derived Arts and Crafts architectural style and the French Eclectic. The Arts and Crafts style was begun as a reaction to Victorian fussiness and the industrial processes that broke the connection between labor, product and consumption. English nineteenth century reformers, Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin, John Ruskin, and William Morris, sought to endow society with a moralistic attitude in which "communitarian values, handicraft and nature existed in a symbiotic relationship."<sup>42</sup> Art and design was one avenue chosen to spread this social attitude and a return to medieval values and traditions was seen as a way to achieve the goal of rationalizing, simplifying and unifying work and environment. A number of influential British architects associated themselves with the movement, including Phillip Webb, Charles R. Ashbee, Richard Norman Shaw, Charles F.A. Voysey, M.H. Baillie Scott, and Edwin L. Lutyens among others, and helped create a revival of domestic architecture. Through their work a new architectural trend was created which paid homage to the vernacular traditions of the past, but used them to create a new freer style, and which used common sense and modern invention to better living conditions.

The English Arts and Crafts movement spread to the United States, including Chicago, where the Chicago Arts and Crafts Society was founded in 1897.<sup>43</sup> Communication between England and the American Midwest was easy and common with a number of English Arts and Crafts practitioners visiting Chicago and lecturing on the new movement. In addition, numerous publications carried the work of English and

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connection that the firm undertook to design the fraternity house, although a number of other Greek Letter Society houses are attributed to the firm.<sup>51</sup> Joseph Royer graduated from the University of Illinois in 1895 with a degree in architectural engineering. He was city engineer for the City of Urbana from 1898 to 1906 during which time he designed the 1901 Champaign County Courthouse; he also was responsible for the County Jail and Sheriff's House, constructed in 1905. Among the firm's other projects are the Urbana High School (1914), Urbana Lincoln Hotel (1924), Urbana Christian Church (1910), and the Urbana Free Library (1918), as well as numerous private residences in both Urbana and Champaign.

T.J. Strong also graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in architectural engineering in 1917. He was a member of Arcus, the group from which Alpha Rho Chi was formed, and he remained closely associated with the local chapter throughout his life. As Worthy Grand Estimator (treasurer) for the fraternity from 1921 to 1927, he secured the sound financial growth of the early national body. In 1929, when the fraternity house was sold at a courthouse sale, Strong initiated a drive that bought the building. In 1939 the house was again foreclosed upon and was only saved through alumni donations. From 1938 to 1955, he was Secretary-Treasurer of the Anthemios Control Corporation and in this role was landlord and friend to chapter members. In honor of all of his work and leadership, T.J. Strong was given a Special Recognition Award in 1966 by the Anthemios Alumni.<sup>52</sup>

Stylistically the Anthemios Chapter House is related to William Morris's Red House (1859), designed by Phillip Webb, in Bexleyheath, England in form and materials. The Red House was a collaboration between the artist (Morris) and the architect (Webb), a blend of the romanticism of Morris and the pragmatism of Webb united in a philosophy largely derived from John Ruskin, who asserted that a building had to be truthful before all.<sup>53</sup> Ruskin urged imitation of the architecture of the middle ages as it was the most truthful. With its steeply pitched gable and hip tile roofs, the Red House recalls Ruskin's idea that a house should have a prominent roof "which is its very soul...wherein consists its shelter..."<sup>54</sup> The house has an L-plan with the internal angle of the "L" facing the well-house which was to have been the centerpiece of a paved courtyard. In the corner formed by the two wings is a staircase tower with a tile hip roof surmounted by a weathervane. This staircase tower organizes the plan of the house by linking the galleries and corridors with the entrance hall and emphasizing the important place the well-house courtyard had in the social and working life of the house.<sup>55</sup> The building's asymmetrical massing, steep roofs, picturesque chimneys and pointed arch details recalled medieval vernacular traditions, but the clean-cut openings without surrounds and solid and spacious feeling had no historical precedents, rather they were from Webb's own sense of form.<sup>56</sup> Thus the Red House was both traditional and modern in feeling and form.

The Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity House shows many characteristics of the Red House, particularly its well-house elevation. Asymmetrical and L-shaped in plan, the building faces a paved courtyard/patio; a tower is located in the corner formed by the two wings and likewise is topped by a hip roof with weathervane. A large, steeply pitched tile roof shelters the building and picturesque chimneys are dominant and anchoring features as at the Red House. Similarly, the multi-light windows are set directly into the brick walls, without surrounds or other embellishments. Internally, the fraternity house is arranged around the main

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hall, an extension of the tower entry space; at the Red house, the staircase tower organizes the plan. While not a direct copy of Webb's design, the fraternity house clearly shows its antecedents and shares the principles of tradition and invention that mark the Red House. Most of the differences that mark the two buildings can be traced to their different uses: the Red House is a single family dwelling while Alpha Rho Chi is a multi-person fraternity house.<sup>57</sup>

The Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity House evokes the feeling of the vernacular building traditions and hand craftsmanship of medieval England as interpreted in the Arts and Crafts architectural style. This is especially evident in the building's masonry walls and tile roof. For the walls, "culls or seconds" were chosen of a variegated colored face brick; over 30 different brick types can be observed in the walls varying in color and/or texture. Building specifications detail that the bricks were to be laid for a "skintled effect" that is, laid rough so as to form an irregular face. Uncolored mortar was also specified.<sup>58</sup> This construction method produced an effect "very interesting with its play of color and shade in the sunlight."<sup>59</sup> This play of light and shadow is further enhanced by the use of brick quoins, projecting rowlock bricks forming a decorative diamond pattern to sections of the upper story, and by the projecting tile caps found above the brick stringcourse and flat arches over the French doors.

The irregular play of light and shadow on the building's walls is repeated in the clay tile roof. A very dominate exterior feature, the steeply pitched hip roof was purposely built with swales and the Normandy shingle tiles were stipulated to be laid "to a broken or irregular line."<sup>60</sup> A full range of tile colors was specified with shades ranging through orange, red and buff. Lighter color tones were placed near the soffit with the color gradually darkening as the ridge was reached; a 1% to 10% color variation can be observed. The use of "natural" building materials such as brick and tile, with different textures and color ranges coupled with construction techniques that emphasized irregularities and the play of light and shadow produced a building that elicits the idea of a vernacular building built by medieval craftsmen rather than precision tooled by modern day construction workers.

The steeply pitched hip roof is also a characteristic of the French Eclectic style as is the use of clay tile on the roof and the half-round dormers. Other characteristics of the French style in evidence on the fraternity house's exterior include the use of casement windows and French doors. The variety of window openings used at the chapter house draws on the medieval vernacular as interpreted by both the French Eclectic and Arts and Crafts styles. The Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity House has four different types of windows: French doors, casements (in a variety of groupings), round, and half-round windows; only some of the windows have transoms. In addition, the window openings are finished in a number of ways: the French doors have brick flat arches with tile caps, the round windows have rowlock surrounds with exaggerated tile keystones, the quadruple casement groups have stone lintels and rowlock sills, while the half-round dormers are finished simply with wood casings and the paired casements have brick cased corners with no sills or lintels. Although the casement windows are modern metal fabrications, the use of multi-light casements is a medieval feature found in the French Eclectic style.

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Aspects of the fraternity house that evoke the French Eclectic subgroup, the Norman cottage, are its asymmetrical massing, corner entrance tower, and mixture of wall textures. Situated at the junction of the two wings, the tower softens the rather regular L-plan of the building by providing an asymmetrical focal point for the entrance. The tower transforms the facade into a picturesque and romantic grouping that harkens back to the simple vernacular of a Norman manor house. This feeling is further enhanced by the placement of an iron balcony outside the tower's upper window. The mixture of wall textures is emphasized by the use of different brick types and their skintled arrangement, contrasting brick quoins, and the sparing use of limestone. Distinct from the brick on both color and texture, the stonework of the tower embellishes the building's entrance, a medieval inspired panel door set in an arched surround. The stone appears handcrafted with the rock-faced foundation stone contrasting with the smooth texture of the dressed-faced upper ashlar surround with chamfered edge and base stop.

One of the more striking features of the building are the two chimneys found on the west and south elevations. These imposing semi-hexagonal brick masses rise above the soffit line, slightly tapering as they ascend to a stone reducing collar; the chimneys are also laid in a skintled pattern. The west chimney, above the collar, becomes two tall stacks joined in the center; the stacks are turned on angle for a diamond appearance and each has an elaborately corbelled cap. The south chimney is similar, but has only a single hexagonal shaped stack with two flues. Together these chimneys add to the asymmetrical and picturesque feeling of the building and its vernacular roots where often building features were similar, but not duplicated, as the work was done by different craftsmen.

On the interior, the medieval roots of both the Arts and Crafts and French Eclectic architectural idioms can be found, although used sparingly but with great effect. The walls of the square foyer are plaster, but lightly scored as to appear as stone blocks, and there are shallow niches on the side walls, perhaps intended for display of fraternity "armaments" or heraldry. The ceiling of the foyer, as well as that of the main hall, consists of four-pointed groined vaults; four-centered arched openings, with wide chamfered corners, lead from the hall into adjoining rooms. The lounge is presented almost as a medieval "Great Hall." The lounge is the largest room in the house, set three steps down from the hall, with a high simple beamed ceiling (two plaster-encased structural beams) and a large French-inspired fireplace as the room's focal point at the south end. The white plaster fireplace was made and presented by a fraternity member's father, Mr. Simon, and is adorned with fraternity symbols including the Alpha Rho Chi emblem in the center of the slanted chimney hood. Other elements appearing on the fireplace that have fraternity associations include the roses (fraternity flower), the griffins (part of the original coat-of-arms that was revised in 1930), and the acanthus leaves (part of the official fraternity badge).<sup>61</sup> Coincidentally, horticultural ornament, especially the acanthus leaf, is used quite often in Arts and Crafts designs and the handcrafting of the fireplace by a member's relative is truly in the craft tradition. The library's fireplace has similar ornament and a beamed ceiling, but its lower beamed ceiling height and smaller room size coupled with the casement and round windows confers the more intimate feeling of a medieval parlor.

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An examination of other Greek Letter Society chapter houses at the University of Illinois shows a preponderance of classically derived architectural styles such as Colonial/Georgian Revival and Classical Revival. The Tudor Revival period revival style is also in evidence in numerous chapter houses having half-timber detailing and irregular massing. However, Alpha Rho Chi appears to be the only chapter house so directly associated with the English medieval vernacular roots of the Arts and Crafts movement mixed with associated French Eclectic influences; it is also one of the few chapter houses not to have been substantially renovated or enlarged.

The Arts and Crafts movement in America was expressed in a number of different architectural styles and types. Principle among these are the Prairie School, the Craftsman Bungalow, and period revival domestic styles. There are no buildings directly comparable to the Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity House with its strong English and French inspired medieval vernacular traditions in the Champaign-Urbana area; however, there are a number of examples of the American Arts and Crafts movement.

Two Prairie School examples are readily identified. "Wee Haven," at 1509 West Park Avenue, Champaign, was built 1925 following Charles Saxby Elwood's plans for an inexpensive, efficient and convenient house. The plans were published in the February 1924 issue of *Fruit, Garden and Home*. The low one-story flat roof residence has strong horizontal lines emphasized by the wood shingle base below the stucco walls and the wide overhanging flat eaves with decorative inset bands. A large center chimney with horizontal banding at the cap is flanked by grouped windows and decorative Prairie style motifs are inset at the corners of the stucco panels. A one-car garage in a similar design is set to the rear of the house. Another Prairie School influenced residence is located at 305 West Oregon Street, Urbana. The lower two-thirds of this hip roof house is built of smooth faced concrete block while the upper third is rough cast concrete stucco set above a wide stringcourse and two concrete block "buttresses." Very wide overhanging flat eaves continue the horizontal emphasis as do the slightly recessed east and west one-story wings. The wings have side gable roofs with wide overhanging eaves; the east wing consists of a porte cochere and recessed east elevation entry, the west wing has an enclosed room and an open porch.

A good example of a Craftsman style bungalow is located at 1018 West Hill Street, Champaign. The first story of this residence has a side gable roof; the entrance is set off-center to the west and is flanked by two short fluted engaged columns. Large braces atop the columns support a shed roof extension of the main roof. Decorative nine-light asymmetrically-paned windows are grouped to either side of the similarly glassed entry. The narrower second story is recessed from the first story building plane and has a front gable roof with very wide overhanging open eaves with exposed rafter tails. Purlins also project from the front gable which has a band of six similar windows. Another Craftsman influenced residence is at 510 West High Street, Urbana. This two story house has a raised clapboard base below the main stucco walls. The Craftsman-style entrance door is to the west, flanked by high art-glass sash; the entry is set below a curved hood supported on large braces. To the east is a slightly projecting band of four multi-light windows supported on small brackets. The second story has two sets of triple multi-light windows set below raised "eyebrows" in the wide overhanging open eaves. The eave and hip roof of this residence is



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curved, giving it a hand-crafted vernacular appearance -- a roof that should be thatched instead of shingled.

The noted Chicago architect, Howard Van Doren Shaw, interpreted the Arts and Crafts movement in his own personal style, usually based on English precedent. Champaign-Urbana has two Greek Letter Society houses designed by Shaw in his distinctive idiom. The sorority chapter house for Kappa Kappa Gamma, 1102 South Lincoln Avenue, Urbana, was constructed in 1928 of random limestone with a side gable roof and six paired flat roof dormers. An off-center entry is deeply recessed behind a wide arch with a cartouche and flanking swags above. A two-story bay is on the south corner with leaded glass casement windows; other window types on the facade include triple double hung and casement windows, quadruple leaded glass windows with transoms, and two narrow diamond-paned lancet windows. Shaw designed the fraternity house Phi Delta Theta (309 East Chalmers Street, Urbana) in 1923. It is also of random limestone with a side gable slate roof terminating in gables at the east and west ends; there are three shed roof dormers between the gables. A slightly projecting two-story square center pavilion has an open first floor porch with square stone posts in antis. The entry is deeply recessed in this pavilion; the second story has four sets of paired casement windows. The gable ends each have one-story bay windows with paired casements above and triple casements in the attic story. Large triple casements with transoms mark the staircase to the east of the pavilion while paired and triple casement sash are to the west.

Two Greek Letter Society chapter houses show characteristics of the French Eclectic architectural style. The Acacia House at 907 South Third Street, Champaign is a very formal, symmetrically styled house with a steep slate hip roof with dormers. Slightly projecting end bays flank the entry bay with its center classically-inspired doorway set in a rusticated stone surround. The walls of the house are stucco and a belt course divides a tall first story from the second story; fluted pilasters accent the corners of the end bays. Kappa Delta Rho's chapter house at 1110 South Second Street, Champaign is closely related to Alpha Rho Chi in the use of the French Eclectic architectural style with its steeply pitched hip roof with bell cast eaves, stucco walls and casement windows.<sup>62</sup> Kappa Delta Rho's facade is also asymmetrical with an entrance tower, but is linear rather than L-shaped; the entrance is marked by a wood door set below a Gothic basket-handle stone arch. The building's stucco walls are accented by limestone blocks randomly placed on the first story and stone quoins; half round dormers and a single wall dormer penetrate the steep roof. While a very French vernacular feel is conveyed by this fraternity house, it lacks any association with the Arts and Crafts architectural style as exhibited by Alpha Rho Chi.

Joseph Royer, the principle architect of the firm that designed the Alpha Rho Chi house, was an eclectic architect who practiced in a number of architectural styles including the Romanesque Revival (Champaign County Courthouse) and the Classical Revival (Urbana Free Library). He also used the medieval idiom in the Urbana Lincoln Hotel which was constructed in 1924. Dark brick with limestone trim, the hotel had an arched entryway, a crenelated tower with two-story oriel window and half-timbering on its upper stories. Unfortunately, the hotel was severely compromised when the building was enveloped in the Lincoln Square Shopping Center, an enclosed mall constructed in 1961.

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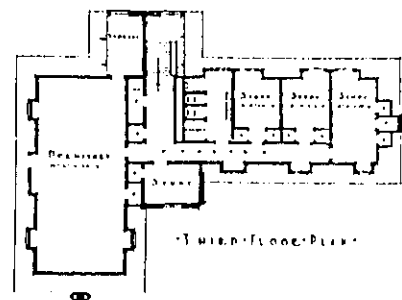
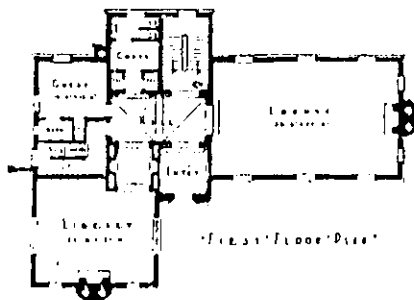
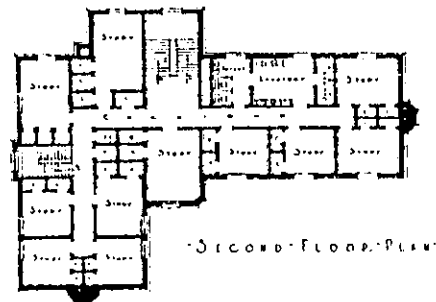
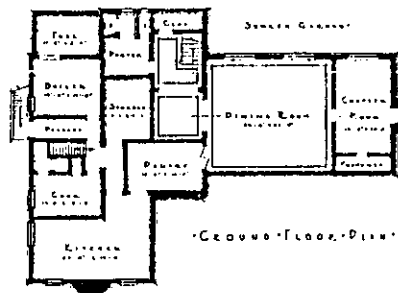
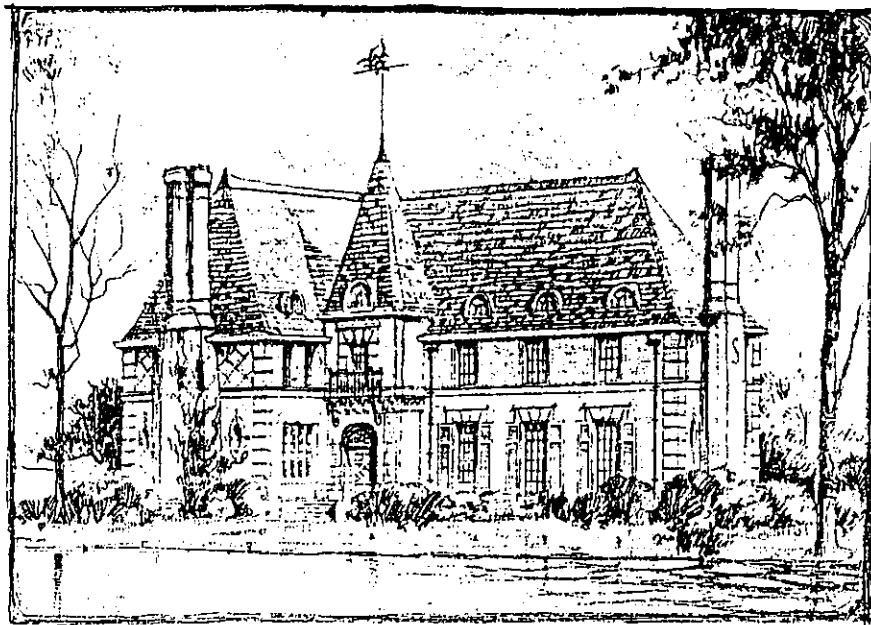
The Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity House continues to function as intended when it was built in 1928. As a home for fraternity men, and since the mid-1980s for women, in the fields of architecture and the allied arts. The integrity of the building is remarkably intact and there is an ongoing effort to preserve and enhance the original architecture. The fraternity continues to carry on the traditions of the Greek Letter Societies on campus by maintaining its historic chapter house and in service to the university and local community as well.

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Original rendering and floor plans of Alpha Rho Chi  
Royer, Danely & Smith, Architects

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**Endnotes**

1. Drawings of site plan for courtyard/patio renovation by Richard Hansen, Consulting Engineer, 1956.
2. George L. Lindeberg, "New Anthemios of Illinois APX House is Nearing Completion," *The Archi*, Vol. IX:#6 (31 March 1928), p. 3; and original building specifications which specify the Western Brick Company's #3 common brick, p. 21.
3. Building specifications, p. 22.
4. Information from undated sketch, drawn from memory, by R.E. Stade with notations as to original size and disposition of original fixture.
5. Building specifications specify model #6216 by the Todhunter Co. of New York, p. 51.
6. Building specifications, p. 23.
7. The ceiling and some wall surfaces were replaced in 1981 after frozen pipes and subsequent flooding severely damaged the plaster.
8. A photograph printed in *The Archi*, Vol. X:#6 (1 June 1929), p. 5 shows the south wall of the lounge with oval windows flanking the fireplace. However, these openings were expertly filled on the exterior as no sign of infilling can be discerned.
9. *The Archi*, (31 March 1928), p. 3.
10. The "Higgins Bookshelf" was given by fellow classmates in memory of George F. Higgins, class of 1939, who was killed in action during World War II, according to a plaque on the bookshelf.
11. Alpha Rho Chi Professional Architecture Fraternity, "The Archi Pledge Manual," undated, pp. 3-2 to 3-5.
12. Karen L. Kummer, Dana L. Pratt, Lachlan F. Blair, and Linda Bastyr, "Fraternity and Sorority Houses at the Urbana-Champaign Campus of the University of Illinois," (Multiple Property Documentation form [MPD], May 1989), p. E.5.
13. MPD, pp. E.11 to E.12.
14. MPD, p. E.13.
15. *Ibid.*, p. E.13.

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16. J.D. Routh, Jr., "The Early History of Alpha Rho Chi, Anthemios Copy," typewritten manuscript, undated, p. 1.
17. "Pledge Manual," p. 4-2.
18. Routh, p. 2.
19. Routh, pp. 40-41.
20. "Pledge Manual," p. 4-3.
21. "Pledge Manual," p. 7-3.
22. "Pledge Manual," p. 7-4.
23. "Pledge Manual," pp. 4-3 to 4-4.
24. "Ricker Influence is Beyond Measure," *The Archi*, Vol. V:#7 (15 April 1924), pp. 1, 5.
25. Routh.
26. The other six architects honored as Master Architects are: Cass Gilbert, Eliel Saarinen, John Wellborn Root, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, R. Buckminster Fuller, and I.M. Pei; "Pledge Manual," p. 8-1.
27. *The Archi*, (15 April 1924), p. 1.
28. *Ibid.*
29. *Ibid.*
30. *The Archi*, Vol. II:#1 (June 1920), p. 9.
31. "University of Illinois. Anthemios Chapter," *The Archi*, Vol. II:#2 (February 1921), p. 8.
32. *The Archi*, Vol. V:#8 (15 May 1924), p. 3.
33. *The Archi*, Vol. X:#6 (1 June 1929), p. 8.
34. *The Archi*, Vol. XIII:#3 (February 1932), p. 9.
35. *Ibid.*

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36. *The Archi*, Vol. XIX:#3 (April 1938), p. 16 and *The Archi*, Vol. XIX:#4 (June 1938) p. 22.
35. *The Archi*, Vol. XI:3 (1 February 1930), p. 5.
36. Alpha Rho Chi also won the Kiwanis Cup in 1929 and 1930. *The Archi*, Vol. XX:#2 (January 1939), p. 15.
37. *The Archi*, Vol. XI:#2 (1 December 1929), pp. 1-2.
38. Typewritten press release from Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia, dated April 4 (no year), University of Illinois, Stewart S. Howe Archives.
39. Nory Miller, "Fred Keck at 81, 'hit of the how' after 56 years," *Inland Architect*, (May 1976), p. 7.
40. *The Archi*, Vol. XXII:#1 (November 1940), p. 2.
41. Correspondence between George and William Keck and the Anthemios Chapter of Alpha Rho Chi, Anthemios Chapter archives.
42. Richard Guy Wilson, "Chicago and the International Arts and Crafts Movements: Progressive and Conservative Tendencies," in *Chicago Architecture: 1872-1922, Birth of a Metropolis*, edited by John Zukowsky (Munich: Prestel-Verlag, 1987), p. 210.
43. H. Allen Brooks, *The Prairie School, Frank Lloyd Wright and His Midwest Contemporaries* (New York: W.W. Norton and Company, Inc., 1972), p. 17.
44. Wilson, pp. 211-212.
45. Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984), p. 387.
46. Ward Bucher, *Dictionary of Building Preservation* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1996), p. 307.
47. McAlester, p. 388.
48. James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell, *House Styles in America* (New York: Penquin Studio, 1996), p. 227-228.
49. *The Archi*, Vol.IX:#6 (31 March 1928), p. 1.

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50. *Ibid.*, pp. 1, 3.

51. Joseph Royer's architectural firm was responsible for designing the Sigma Pi Fraternity House, Chi Psi Fraternity House (listed on the National Register 2/22/1990, demolished) and the Alpha Xi Delta Sorority House (listed 8/28/1989) which was originally built as the residence of Matthew W. Busey.

52. Framed wall plaque in the chapter library, Alpha Rho Chi fraternity house.

53. Edward Hollamby, *Red House* (New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1991), p. 3.

54. *Ibid.*, p. 5.

55. *Ibid.*, pp. 5-8.

56. Clay Lancaster, *The American Bungalow: 1880-1930* (New York: Abbeville Press, Inc., 1985), p. 33.

57. The relationship between the Red House and Alpha Rho Chi is based on a private communication in March, 1997 with architectural historian Richard Betts, who is an Associate Professor of Architecture at the Urbana-Champaign campus of the University of Illinois.

58. Building specifications, p. 21.

59. *The Archi*, (31 March 1928), p. 3.

60. Building specifications, pp. 8, 51.

61. "Pledge Manual," pp. 6-5, 6-7.

62. The Kappa Delta Rho Fraternity House was listed on the National Register in 1990.

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- The Archi*, newsletter of Alpha Rho Chi, 1920-1940.
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- Bucher, Ward. *Dictionary of Building Preservation*. New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1996.
- Building specifications for Alpha Rho Chi - U. of I., typewritten, in possession of Alpha Rho Chi House and Grounds Committee.
- Drawings of site plan for courtyard/patio renovation. Richard Hansen, consulting engineer, 1956 in possession of Alpha Rho Chi House and Grounds Committee.
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- Kaplan, Wendy, *"The Art that is Life": The Arts & Crafts Movement in America, 1875-1920*. Boston: Museum of Fine Arts, 1987.
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- Massey, James C. and Shirley Maxwell. *House Styles in America*. New York: Penguin Studio, 1996.
- McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.
- Miller, Nory. "Fred Keck at 81, 'hit of the show' after 56 years." *Inland Architect* (May, 1976).
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Wilson, Richard Guy. "Chicago and the International Arts and Crafts Movements: Progressive and Conservative Tendencies," in John Zukowsky, ed. *Chicago Architecture: 1872-1922 Birth of a Metropolis*. Munich: Prestel-Verlag, 1987.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

Lots 10 and 11 of College Place, W 1/2, SW 1/4, Sect. 18 T 19, NR9E.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property includes only the property now owned and associated with the Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity House at 1108 South First Street, Champaign, Illinois.



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. Box 37127

Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

IN REPLY REFER TO

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to announce actions on the following properties for the National Register of Historic Places.

For further information contact Edson Beall via voice  
(202) 343-1572, fax (202) 343-1836 or E-mail: edson\_beall@nps.gov

Visit our web site at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/nrhome.html>

MAY 30 1997

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 5/19/97 THROUGH 5/23/97

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number, NHL, Action, Date, Multiple Name

ARKANSAS, PHILLIPS COUNTY, Spirit of the American Doughboy Monument--Helena, Jct. of Cherry and Perry Sts., Helena, 97000455, LISTED, 5/23/97

ARKANSAS, SEBASTIAN COUNTY, Spirit of the American Doughboy Monument--Fort Smith, 4901 Midland Ave., Fort Smith, 97000454, LISTED, 5/23/97

FLORIDA, JACKSON COUNTY, Marianna Historic District, Bounded by Davis, Park, Jackson, and Wynn Sts., Marianna, 97000456, LISTED, 5/23/97 (Marianna MPS)

FLORIDA, POLK COUNTY, Henley Field Ball Park, 1125 N. Florida Ave., Lakeland, 97000458, LISTED, 5/23/97

FLORIDA, VOLUSIA COUNTY, Southwest Daytona Beach Black Heritage District, Roughly bounded by Foote Court, South St., Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd., and the FEC RR tracks, Daytona Beach, 97000457, LISTED, 5/23/97 (Daytona Beach MPS)

GEORGIA, DE KALB COUNTY, Decatur Cemetery, 229 Bell St., Decatur, 97000459, LISTED, 5/23/97

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity House, 1108 S. First St., Champaign, 97000460, LISTED, 5/23/97 (Fraternity and Sorority Houses at the Urbana-Champaign Campus of the University of Illinois MPS)

IOWA, HARRISON COUNTY, Woodbine Public Library, 58 5th St., Woodbine, 97000462, LISTED, 5/23/97

KANSAS, FINNEY COUNTY, Cedar Cliff, 501 N. 9th St., Garden City, 97000464, LISTED, 5/23/97

LOUISIANA, LAFOURCHE PARISH, Ledet House, LA 308, E of Bayou Lafourche, Racland vicinity, 97000468, LISTED, 5/23/97

LOUISIANA, SABINE PARISH, Miller, J. M., and Brother Store, 7886 LA 473, Florian, 97000465, LISTED, 5/23/97

LOUISIANA, ST. MARTIN PARISH, Soulier House, 417 N. Main St., St. Martinville, 97000466, LISTED, 5/23/97

MARYLAND, HARFORD COUNTY, Pooles Island Lighthouse, NW portion of Poole's Island, SE of Rickett Point, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Edgewood vicinity, 97000060, LISTED, 2/19/97

MASSACHUSETTS, BARNSTABLE COUNTY, Union Hall, Town Hall Rd, E of MA 6, Truro, 97000470, LISTED, 5/23/97

MASSACHUSETTS, WORCESTER COUNTY, Fruitlands Museums Historic District, 102 Prospect Hill Rd., Harvard, 97000439, LISTED, 5/23/97

NORTH CAROLINA, CABARRUS COUNTY, Bethel Church Arbor, Jct of NC 1123 and NC 1121, Midland vicinity, 97000472, LISTED, 5/23/97

NORTH CAROLINA, WATAUGA COUNTY, Ward Family House, 8018 Rominger Rd., Sugar Grove vicinity, 97000473, LISTED, 5/23/97

NORTH CAROLINA, YADKIN COUNTY, Durrett--Jarratt House, 1.35 mi. SW of jct. of NC 1605 and NC 1569, Enon vicinity, 97000474, LISTED, 5/23/97

TENNESSEE, SHELBY COUNTY, Vollintine Evergreen North Historic District, Roughly bounded by Mclean Blvd., Vollintine Ave., University St., and Rainbow Cir., Memphis, 97000475, LISTED, 5/23/97

TENNESSEE, SHELBY COUNTY, Vollintine Evergreen Avaiion Historic District, Roughly bounded by Stonewall, Vollintine, and Evergreen Sts., and Cypress Creek, Memphis, 97000476, LISTED, 5/23/97

TENNESSEE, TIPTON COUNTY, Trinity Episcopal Church, Old, Charleston Rd., 4 mi. NE of Mason, Mason vicinity, 97000039, LISTED, 5/21/97

TENNESSEE, WASHINGTON COUNTY, Tree Streets Historic District, Roughly bounded by S. Roan, W. Chestnut, Franklin and Virginia Sts. and University Pkwy., Johnson City, 96000232, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 5/23/97

TEXAS, DALLAS COUNTY, Santa Fe Terminal Buildings No.1 and No. 2, 1114 Commerce St. and 1118 Jackson St., Dallas, 97000478, LISTED, 5/23/97

TEXAS, TRAVIS COUNTY, Zilker Park Historic District, 2100 Barton Springs Rd., Austin, 97000479, LISTED, 5/23/97

VIRGINIA, CAROLINE COUNTY, Green Falls, Jct of VA 627 and VA 623, Bowling Green vicinity, 97000485, LISTED, 5/23/97

VIRGINIA, FRANKLIN COUNTY, Finney--Lee House, 0.75 mi. N of jct. of VA 717 and VA 890, Snow Creek vicinity, 97000484, LISTED, 5/23/97

VIRGINIA, NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Cloughton--Wright House, 2 mi. NE of jct of VA 623 and VA 624, Lewissetta vicinity, 97000491, LISTED, 5/23/97

VIRGINIA, PAGE COUNTY, Spittle's Isaac House, 2948 Oak Forest Ln., Luray vicinity, 97000486, LISTED, 5/23/97

VIRGINIA, SMYTH COUNTY, Greer, R. T., and Company, 107 Pendleton St., Marion vicinity, 97000481, LISTED, 5/23/97

VIRGINIA, VIRGINIA BEACH INDEPENDENT CITY, Miller--Masury, Dr. John House, 515 Wilder Point, Virginia Beach, 97000488, LISTED, 5/23/97

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continental architects and young American architects were exposed to the new style while traveling abroad.<sup>44</sup> American adaption of the English Arts and Crafts style, however, took a number of different avenues of expression including the Prairie School, the Craftsman Bungalow, and the period revival domestic styles.

The French Eclectic originates from the informal domestic buildings in northwestern France, especially Normandy and Brittany; and, with its subgroup the Norman cottage, is closely connected to medieval English traditions.<sup>45</sup> Related to the Tudor style, both styles share the use of a variety of different wall materials and tall steeply pitched roofs are prominent features with tile, slate, stone or thatch as the most common roofing materials. However, French Eclectic style roofs rarely have the dominant front-facing cross gable found in the Tudor style. Other characteristics of the French style include quoins, double-hung or casement windows, full-length casement windows (French doors) with shutters, and circular roof dormers. The subgroup, Norman cottage, is based on farmhouse examples from Normandy and is a romanticized informal asymmetrical style commonly identified by a prominent round tower with a tall, conical roof; the entrance is often found in the tower. In addition to having the window and roof characteristics of the French Eclectic style, mixed wall textures are also common characteristics of this subgroup.<sup>46</sup>

World War I helped familiarize Americans with this French vernacular style and architects became conversant with the style through the publication of various studies in the 1920s.<sup>47</sup> From about 1915 to 1940, many Norman cottage or French Eclectic style houses were built, especially in well-to-do suburbs in the east and midwest. House plan firms and ready-cut-house distributors quickly picked up the style and small scale houses based on a free interpretation of the French style, often intermingled with medieval English characteristics were soon to be found all across America.<sup>48</sup>

#### **Anthemios Chapter House**

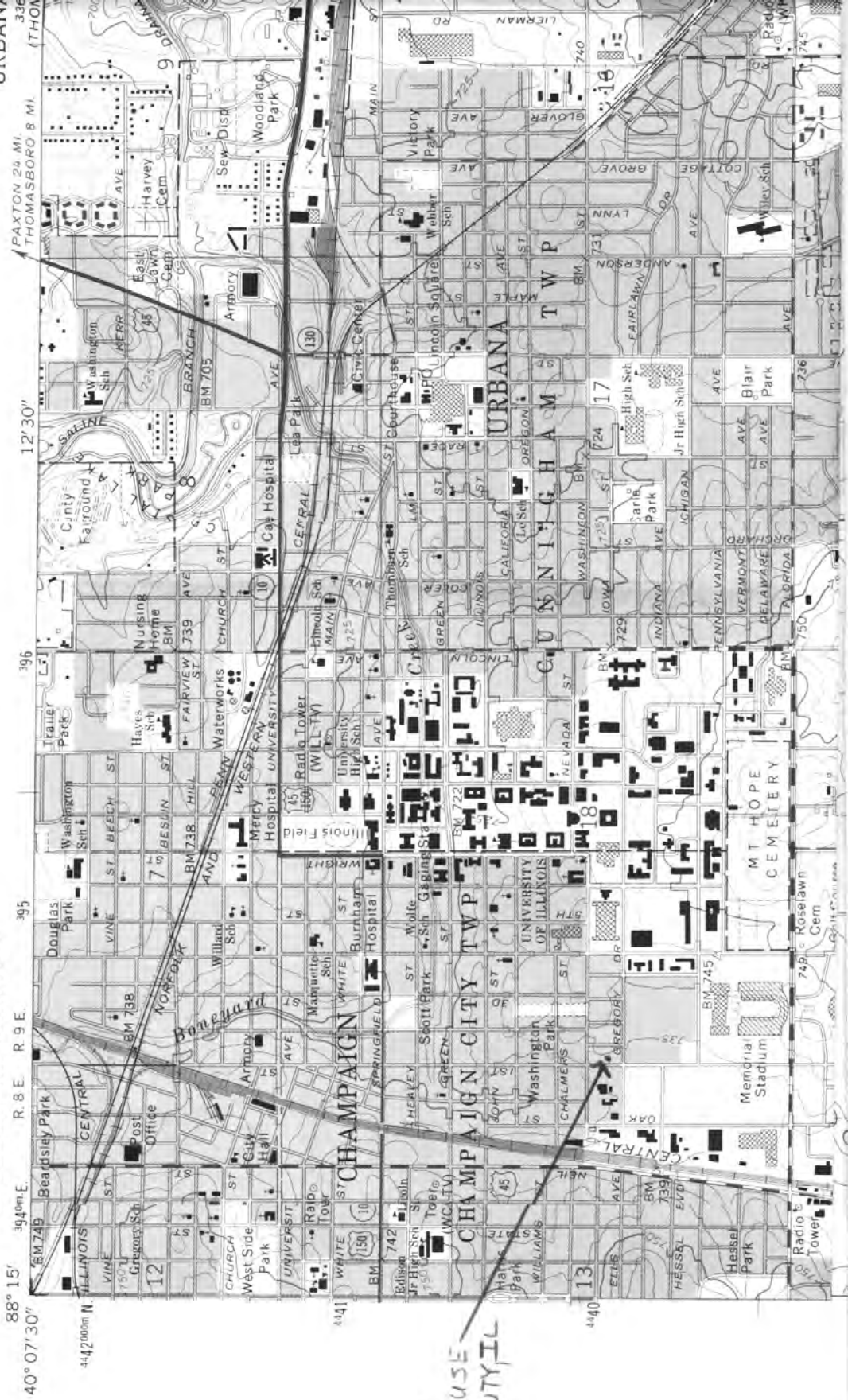
After first meeting at the University Y.M.C.A., the fraternity secured a house at 401 East Green Street, Champaign in 1913. After W.W.I, Alpha Rho Chi followed the lead of other Greek Letter Societies in planning for a new chapter house. The Anthemios Alumni Association was formed during the fall of 1924 in order to carry on a building program. During 1925 the Board of Trustees of the Association and the Active Chapter met individually or collectively to discuss building. The sale of debenture bonds created a sinking fund and questionnaires and circular letters were set out to gather opinions of the alumni.<sup>49</sup> A lot was purchased on First Street at Gregory in February, 1927 and at the same time the firm of Royer, Danely and Smith of Urbana was chosen to prepare sketches of the new house. Working drawings and specifications were soon completed and bids were taken in August of 1927. Ground was broken in October under the supervision of alumnus T.J. Strong. By March of 1928 the house was nearing completion.<sup>50</sup>

A founding member of the Alpha Rho Chi chapter, Truman Jefferson Strong, worked as the field superintendent for the local architectural firm of Royer, Danely and Smith. It was probably through this

UNITED STATES  
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STATE OF ILLINOIS  
DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION  
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URBANA

3364 III NE  
(RISING)



ALPHA RUCCHI  
FRATERNI HOUSE  
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILL.  
ZONE 16  
E 39445  
N 443980

88° 15'

3940m E

R. 8 E

R. 9 E

395

396

12' 30"

3364  
PAXTON 2 1/2 MI.  
THOMASBORO 8 MI.  
(THOMASBORO)