

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SENT TO D.C.

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

10-3-05

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 Phi Fraternity House - Beta Alpha Chapter

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 508 East Armory Avenue [NA] not for publication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 C. Fisher / SHPO
Signature of certifying official/Title

9-30-05
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 _____

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 Phi House
Name of Property

Champaign County, Illinois
County/State

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.**

 0

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)

Georgian Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Asphalt Shingle

other _____

Narrative Description

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

Alpha Phi House
Name of Property

Champaign County, Illinois
County/State

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

1923-1955

Significant Dates

1938, 1950

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Harris, Charles, architect

DeWitt, Lyle V., architect

DeAtley, Edward N., contractor

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository:

Steward S. Howe Archival Program, UI

Alpha Phi House Champaign County, Illinois
Name of Property County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A. Zone	16	Easting	395066	Northing	4440216	B. Zone		Easting		Northing	
C. Zone		Easting		Northing		D. Zone		Easting		Northing	

[X] 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, Architectural Historian
organization Society for the Preservation of Greek Housing date April, 2005
street & number 1104 Devonshire Drive telephone (217) 359-3848
city or town Champaign state IL zip code 61821

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 Beta Alpha of Alpha Phi, Inc. c/o Terri Dodson
street & number 508 East Armory Avenue telephone 217-352-7162
city or town Champaign state Illinois zip code 61820

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 Phi Fraternity House (Beta Alpha Chapter), Champaign County, Illinois
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Narrative Description

The Alpha Phi fraternity house, Beta Alpha chapter, was purchased in 1923 and is located to the west of the main campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the middle of the 500 block of East Armory Avenue. Facing south, the house is the only active Greek chapter house in the immediate area; although two former chapter houses are nearby. To the east of Alpha Phi is the former chapter house of local fraternity, Chi Beta (1925); it is now the rectory for priests affiliated with St. John's Catholic Chapel at 604 East Armory Avenue. The University of Illinois Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations is directly west of the fraternity at 504 East Armory Avenue. Across the street (south) is the University of Illinois Armory, which encompasses most of that block. To the immediate rear (north) of the fraternity is a parking lot and the rear of an apartment building facing South Sixth Street. "The Georgian" is a 1925 apartment building listed as a Champaign local landmark. Formerly the Theta Chi chapter house, the 1922 Catholic women's residence hall, Newman House, is northwest of the sorority at the corner of Chalmers and Fifth streets.

The L-shaped Alpha Phi house rises two-and-one-half stories and carries the qualities of the Georgian Revival architectural style. Built of red brick with double-hung six-over-six-light windows, the house's detailing includes a Georgian Revival entrance, brick quoins, and a steeply pitched asphalt-shingle hip roof with pedimented gable-roof dormers. A compatible red brick addition was constructed on the northeast corner in 1950. The nomination consists of one contributing building.

Exterior

The Alpha Phi fraternity house is a two-and-one-half story L-shaped building with steeply pitched hip roofs. Built of running bond red brick, the building sits above an at-grade poured concrete foundation. A slightly projecting nine course brick "foundation" is below a double stepped "watertable." Most of the windows are original six-over-six-light double-hung sash, although a few have been replaced with modern windows. Gable roof dormers puncture the asphalt-shingle hip roofs and two exterior brick chimneys accent the east and west elevations. A two-and-one-half story, hip roof addition was added to the rear northeast corner of the original building in 1950 creating the current "L" configuration. The addition's red brick construction and double-hung windows are compatible with the original building.

The main (south) facade is symmetrical with the first story's very slightly projecting center entryway flanked by two window bays; the second story has six window bays. Leading up to the formal entry is a wide concrete sidewalk that ends at an equally wide concrete entry porch. The porch has three full-width steps. Inset from the porch's edges and flanking the entry door are metal balustrades that extend the width of the porch platform and descend to the lowest step with a volute; the anchoring metal post is capped by a small brass finial. The raised entry door is a metal, life-safety door with applied moldings on its exterior that simulate the original six-panel wood door. Above is a tall blind round-arch transom filled with a decorative wood fan motif. A molded wood architrave surrounds the door and round arch transom. Soldier course brickwork with a brick keystone forms a supporting round arch above the transom with the

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impost "blocks" extending as flat arches beyond sidelights on the east and west to the edges of the porch's plane. Attached to the apex of the brick round arch is a curved brass plaque inscribed with "ALPHA PHI." Greek "ΑΦ" brass letters, in a larger format, are also fixed to the facade above and to the east of the eastern sidelight. Flanking the entry door are four-light casement sidelights set over paneled bases. The west sidelight has the addition of a brass mail slot set below its casement. Between the entry and sidelights are Georgian Revival-style exterior light fixtures. To either side of the entryway are two window bays, each with a single six-over-six-light double-hung sash and louvered blinds. The window openings have rowlock sills, but are without visible lintels. Proportionally smaller, six-over-six-light double-hung sash are used in the six bays of the second story. Louvered blinds and rowlock sills also accent these openings. The east and west corners of the facade have brick quoins. Above is a full wood entablature with a plain architrave and frieze, modillion blocks, and molded cornice. At the east and west ends of the elevation are down spouts with decorative scuppers. Punctuating the hip roof are three symmetrically-placed aluminum-sided gable roof dormers with smaller six-over-six-light double-hung sash.

The west elevation is divided into two sections as the house's public area projects slightly from the rear (north) service/private area. Centered in the formal section is an exterior brick chimney with shallow shoulders and a tall brick stack, which is terminated by a molded brick cap with a stone bonnet. Double-hung windows and small square-light dormers on each story flank the chimney; the double-hung windows are similar in detail to those of the main elevation. Two below-grade blocked window openings are to either side of the chimney; metal grates cover the window wells. The full entablature with modillion blocks returns on this section and dies into a similar, but plain entablature that continues along the rear section of this elevation. Quoins also accent the northwest corner of the public section. Slightly recessed, the rear section has narrow two-over-four-light sash on each story adjacent to the reentrant angle; continuing to the north, are two six-over-six-light windows and an at-grade solid metal security door. The north third of the elevation is blind. On the second story are three smaller double-hung sash set above the openings of the first story with a fourth opening at the north end infilled with brick and a vent. Three symmetrically-placed dormers are in the hip roof. Concrete basement steps, with a ground-level pipe railing, are in the reentrant angle and lead to a six-light-over-two-panel door. Two additional three-light basement windows with wells are to the north of the staircase.

The rear (north) elevation also has two sections: the original chapter house comprises the west half, while the 1950 addition fills the east half. Centrally placed on the first story of the original section are small paired one-over-one-light double-hung windows. To the west of these windows is a three-over-six-light single-hung window, while to the east, the opening has been infilled with a large ventilation unit above fixed three-lights. All of these openings have metal security grilles. Above, on the second story are four single windows. A slightly smaller one-over-one-light window is set in the west third of the elevation, two adjacent six-over-six-light windows are slightly off-center to the east, and a similar window is above the east opening on the first story. Three gable roof dormers are in the center of the original section's roof slope. Running bond red brick continues on the addition where three sets of larger paired six-over-six-light double-hung windows are set in the center and east areas of this section. On the second story are three sets of smaller paired six-over-six-light double-hung windows. One set is to the

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west with an adjacent brick-infilled door opening. This opening once led to an exterior emergency exit. The remaining two sets are over the first-story eastern window groups. These addition windows have concrete sills. A long aluminum-sided shed roof dormer extends from the west edge of the addition to the east. It has a band of nine one-over-one-light double-hung windows. The simple entablature runs the length of this elevation. However, the entablature is interrupted under the easternmost window where an emergency exit door was once installed; it has been removed and replaced with a window.

On the east elevation, the addition created an L-shape as it extends further to the east. A one-story flat roof porch extends along the south elevation of the addition; its roof deck continues to the west over the slightly recessed secondary entry. Access to the roof deck is provided from a second-story doorway. A metal balustrade lines the exterior edge of the roof deck. Below, the porch has four brick piers along its south edge and center concrete steps flanked by metal railings. Metal railings are also along the south and east edges of the concrete porch deck. At the west end of the porch is the secondary entry with a wide six-panel door flanked by fixed eighteen-light-over-low-panel sidelights; this entry faces east. Facing south on the first story of the addition are two sets of paired six-over-six-light double-hung windows similar to those on the north elevation; the second story has two sets of slightly smaller paired six-over-six-light windows to the east and a triple set of windows to the west. Three dormers are centered on the hip roof. The east elevation of the addition has two windows groups on the first story. These window groups consist of a fixed one-light center window flanked by six-over-six-light double-hung windows. Four smaller single six-over-six-light double-hung windows are on the second story. The first story windows on the south and east elevations have soldier course flat arches. A simple entablature completes the addition. The east elevation of the main house has window, chimney, and entablature details similar to the west elevation. On the short north reentrant angle, above the porch, is a similar second story window with a dormer directly above.

Landscaping around the Alpha Phi House is fairly simple. A simple grass lawn is divided by a wide center sidewalk. Sidewalks also lead from the front porch west to a driveway and east to a parking area and north from this sidewalk to the secondary porch. The edges of these sidewalks are lined by large stones. The south and west edges of the lawn have low hedges, while the front of the house has low bushes. Flanking the lawn are concrete driveways. The west driveway terminates at the northwest corner of the house and is used as a service driveway. On the east, the driveway extends to the north lot line with a continuation beyond the property to a private parking lot; asphalt parking spaces are along the west edge of this drive. Gravel areas are adjacent to the addition's east elevation and are across the north side of the chapter house. In front of the house, the parkway is entirely paved in random limestone pavers. The front lawn, drives, and parking areas comprise the entirety of the house's lot.

Interior

Entry to the Alpha Phi House is through the main south entrance that opens into a small vestibule with a single narrow four-light casement to the east of the metal life-safety entry door. Modern ceramic tile covers the floor and a large wood "trestle" bench is against the east wall. In the northeast corner is the original call bell system - each sorority woman was assigned a

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distinctive ring and thus could be summoned from the vestibule. The north side of the vestibule consists of a wood and stained-glass "screen"/wall of four narrow panels and a wide door. Each panel has a stained-glass window, in the sorority's blue and maroon colors, set above a wood panel; the door is similar, but with two wood panels, and opens into a large central foyer.

The foyer provides central circulation for the sorority house. To the west is the card room and staircase, to the east is the living room, and to the north is the rear foyer with access to the dining room and service areas. Painted wood trim is used in the foyer and throughout the public areas. It consists of a molded baseboard, low chair rail, crown molding, and simple molded door and window surrounds. Oak flooring covers the wide perimeter of the foyer, but modern ceramic tile in a rectangular double "X" pattern is used in the center of the floor. The tile connects with the vestibule via a narrower tile aisle. Two six arm brass Colonial Revival style chandeliers light the foyer. Adjacent to the entry, on the west, is the small mail/phone room that has a narrow four-light casement along its south wall along with a brass mail slot. A wood six-panel door closes the mail room off from the foyer and a similar door separates the foyer from the southwest corner card room.

The card room has similar details as that of the foyer, but its floor is covered with carpet. On the south side are two six-over-six light windows and a single similar window is on the west elevation. Opening off of the card room, on the north, is the library with similar door, window and trim details, and carpeting. The library has a single window off-center to the north on the west wall. A door in the northeast corner leads into a small ceramic tiled passageway below the main staircase. This passageway has a closet on its north and the stairs to the basement on the south; it connects on the east with the foyer. Directly across the foyer from this passageway is the wide opening into the formal living room, located in the southeast corner.

A federal neo-classical style mantel is the main attraction of the living room, being centered in the east wall and flanked by six-over-six light windows. Two similar windows are in the south wall and a doorway into a secondary vestibule is in the northeast corner. The room's details are similar to those of the card room with carpeting and the addition of original radiators with their wood covers below the windows. Pink marble with a wood outer molding surrounds the wide fireplace opening; three-inch square red tiles form the hearth. The wood mantle has fluted pilasters complete with bases and plain architraves; a wide frieze spans the width of the fireplace. It has carved fan oval paterae over the pilasters and a wide center fluted oval set in a raised rectangular panel. Above, the wide mantel shelf has a molded cornice. A simple three-panel overmantle, consisting of applied moldings creating narrow panels flanking a center wide panel, completes the ensemble.

Directly north of the foyer is the main section remaining from the original 1923 chapter house, now consisting of the rear foyer, house mother's quarters, and the kitchen area. The rear foyer is separated from the foyer by four ten-light French doors that are hinged to create two pairs and which can fold back onto each other and the walls. The floor of the rear foyer has a center carpet area with a wide oak herringbone border. In this room, the baseboard is taller and simpler than that of the other sections of the house and there is no chair rail. A modern cornice and a wide soffit with imbedded recessed lights encircles the room. In the northwest corner is

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a doorway into the service passage with an adjacent (to south) door into the house mother's quarters. Opposite, on the east, is a wide opening into the dining room's foyer, which has a similar center carpeted area and herringbone border.

The foyer leads into the dining room in the house's northeast corner. Along the north side of the passage is a wall of wood display cases consisting of one-light upper doors over solid wood bases with one-panel doors. The three center cases are flanked by slightly projecting east and west end cases. Glass shelves hold trophies and the upper cases are lighted. Opposite the display cases and in the southwest corner is the four-panel door into a bathroom. The L-shaped bath has a vinyl flooring, two sinks in a cabinet along the east wall, and a single toilet stall recessed in the southwest corner.

Double six-light French doors lead from the foyer into the dining room; access is also provided from the secondary vestibule via similar paired doors in the southwest corner. This secondary vestibule has a ceramic tile floor with a similar oak herringbone border. A wide six-panel door is centered in the east wall with flanking fixed eighteen-light-over-low-panel sidelights. This entryway fills the entire east elevation of the entry vestibule and opens onto the long east side covered porch. To the south is the opening into the living room, while to the west is a door into a small half-bathroom with a single toilet and sink. The dining room has a vinyl covered floor, high baseboards, crown molding, and a low chair rail at window sill height. Two wide paneled beams run north to south and divide the ceiling into thirds. The beams rest on slightly projecting wall piers that are also paneled. On the north side are three sets of paired six-over-six-light windows, on the east are two sets of fixed one-light sash flanked by six-over-six-light windows, and on the south are two sets of paired six-over-six-light windows that open onto the covered porch and the doors to the entry hall. The west side has the French doors to the vestibule and central paired six-panel swinging doors into the kitchen.

The kitchen is L-shaped with the wider section to the east off of the dining room. On the east side are the centrally located paired swinging doors with a stainless steel dishwashing assemblage adjacent to the doors in the northeast corner with a sink to the west below a ventilation unit and three-light sash. Along this section's south and west walls are a bank of cabinets and service areas. The kitchen's narrower section has a large walk-in cooler on its south wall along with a five-horizontal panel door into the service passage. A stainless steel stove/oven unit is on the west wall, while the north wall has a counter below paired one-over-one-light windows. The floor is covered in vinyl flooring.

A service passage leads from the kitchen to the rear foyer; it is partially wood floored (section near the rear foyer) and vinyl covered (section near the kitchen). The passage has a five-horizontal-panel door on the west that leads into the three-story service stair tower. These stairs and landings are concrete with double metal pipe railings; the walls of the tower are exposed red brick. Two steps lead down to a solid metal exterior door facing west; the stairs continue down along the north wall to the basement. Off of the exterior door landing on the north, at the top of the basement stairs, is a small employees' half-bathroom with coat hooks in the south entry area and a window to the north.

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Adjacent to the service hallway and entered from the rear foyer, is the house mother's quarters. This area has two rooms plus a small bathroom; the living area and bedroom have carpeted floors and acoustical tile ceilings. Six-over-six-light windows are on the west elevations. A small closet is in the southeast corner of the bedroom, while the bathroom is in the southwest corner with a second closet on its east side. The bathroom has a tub/shower unit with window along the west wall and a toilet and sink to the north.

An open double-L staircase runs from the foyer to the second story, where it continues as a quarter-turn staircase to the third story; quarter-turn closed stairs run from the first story to the basement directly below this formal staircase. Originally entirely open, the staircase was enclosed on the second story with a wall and six-panel fire door due to life safety code regulations. Decorative, Colonial Revival style turned balusters, two per step, continue from the volute base newel post to the third story. Gooseneck oak handrails terminate at each of the fluted vase secondary newel posts. The upper portion of the basement stairs is enclosed, with only a short section open with a simple wood baluster and plain newel post.

The upper stories of the house have central corridors laid out in an asymmetrical "H" pattern: the northeast leg of the 1950 addition is longer than that of the main house. Sleeping rooms for two or three women are arranged around the corridors, along with a computer room/lounge, bathrooms, and storage areas; a large dormitory room is on the third story. The hallways are carpeted and have a low baseboard, but are without the chair rail and crown moldings of the first story. For life-safety code reasons, all of the bedroom doors are fire-rated metal, but have had moldings applied to the corridor side so that they appear as four-panel doors. The main staircase rises to the second-story corridor with the balustrade continuing along the hollow newel (now enclosed) to the south where the stairs continue to the third story. At the south end of the corridor are six sleeping rooms and a large mechanical closet (formally a formal closet) arranged around this "T"-plan stair corridor section. Continuing north from the staircase, the floor slopes gently down in the center area of the original house. On the east side of the corridor, two rooms were combined to form a large computer room/lounge. In the southeast corner of the room are double one-light doors that access the roof deck over the porch. Across the hall is a phone closet, now filled with sprinkler piping, and the president's suite. This suite is merely a slightly larger room that originally had a small bathroom now converted to a closet (acoustic tile floor). The floor is carpeted and there is a picture railing. Two additional closets are also in the room: on the north and south walls. This was the guest room from the 1938 remodel. Two bathrooms are located to the northwest along the north end corridor with the service stair tower at the west end of the north corridor. The corner bathroom consists of two sections, as two rooms were combined to create a larger bathroom; thus there are two entries from the corridor. This bathroom has a ceramic tile floor (two-inch squares); the west section has three shower stalls to the west and a row of three sinks on the north between windows. Three additional sinks are on the south wall to the east of the door. The smaller east section has only three toilet stalls and a north elevation window. Immediately adjacent to this bathroom is the second bathroom, which has a single toilet stall recessed to the southwest (in line with the three in the first bathroom) and three sinks against the west wall. A six-over-six-light window is on the north wall, while the east side has a shower stall in the northeast corner and a tub/

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shower in the southeast corner. Along the slightly longer northeast corridor are six rooms, three on the north and three on the south.

The staircase continues to the third story with the original hollow newel arrangement. Slightly T-shaped, the south end corridor has four rooms: one centered in the south elevation, one at the west end of the hall along the west side, one at the east end of the hall along the east side, and a study room to the north. All of these rooms have sloped ceilings, built-in knee wall storage areas, and dormer windows, except the study room which is without a window. Two built-in closets are also located along the east half of the corridor and attic access is provided via a hatch near the corridor and stair hall junction. Double five-panel doors close off the south corridor from the stair hall. The corridor through the central area of the original house has two bedrooms on the west, a single bedroom on the southeast, and an ironing room in the northeast corner; a six-panel fire door is centrally located in the corridor. A tiled bathroom is above the second story's northwest corner bathrooms; it was also originally two rooms and has two corridor entries. Two shower stalls are located along the south wall and a bathtub is on the west wall; in the center are double sinks, two on each side of a wall section. Dormer windows, six-over-six-light, line the north side. Three toilet stalls are in the northeast corner. The service stair tower is at the west end of the corridor, while the east end has a slight jog with rooms to the north and south and a large dormitory room at the east end. Originally, the dormitory encompassed the entire east end of the corridor, but was subdivided into the two corridor rooms and a smaller dormitory in the mid-1990s. The north room has a band of four one-over-one-light windows along its north side; this window band continues into the dormitory where there are five similar windows. Two dormers are in the dormitory's south wall, while a third dormer is in the south corridor room. An abbreviated "tray" ceiling is used in the dormitory, which also has storage areas in the knee walls of the east and south sides.

The majority of the sleeping rooms have oak flooring, although carpeting and asphalt tile is found in a few rooms. Plain wood trim is used for the baseboards, door, and window surrounds and some of the rooms have picture railings. Closets in the rooms generally have six-panel doors, but have reduced capacity due to the addition of sprinkler piping; two to three closets are in each room. Ceiling fans are also used in the sleeping rooms.

The service stair tower, at the west end of the north corridor, runs from the basement to the third story. It is an open dog-legged staircase with concrete stairs and double pipe railings. The landings are also concrete. A metal door is at the base of the first story; there is a six-over-six-light window on the second story and a dormer sash at the top. Fire-rated doors close the stair tower off from the corridors.

In the basement is a large chapter room/television lounge, storage closets, laundry facilities, and mechanical and service areas. At the base of the main stairs is a hallway that runs south to north with a slight western jog where the corridor enters the service section. Directly in front of the staircase and with a wide opening to the hallway is the large chapter room/television lounge. This room has a drop ceiling, vinyl flooring, and dry-wall finished walls with chair rail. Centrally located in the west third of the room are two boxed support columns. Two basement sash are symmetrically placed on the east wall, while the west wall has closets flanking the

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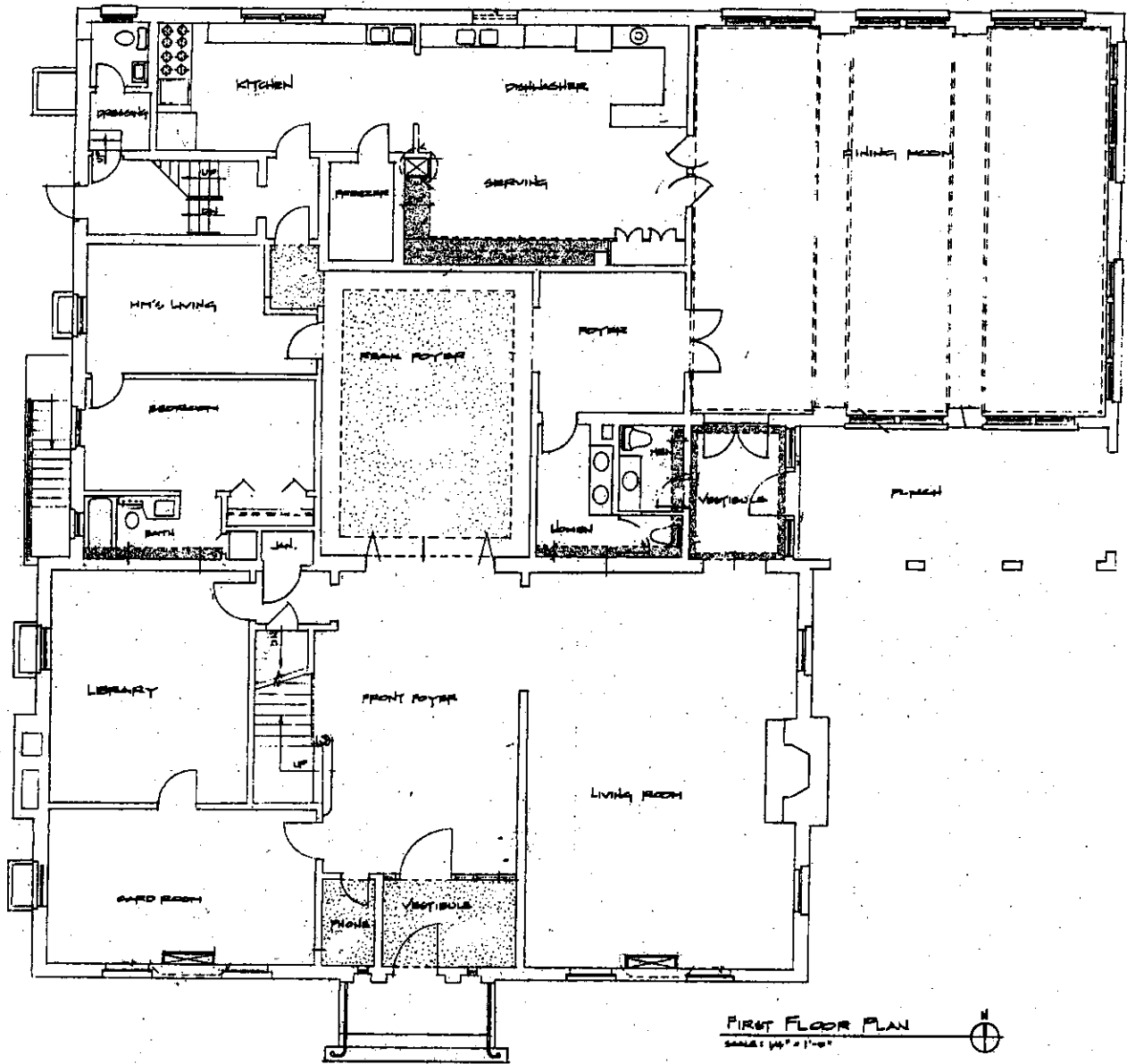
Alpha Phi Fraternity House (Beta Alpha Chapter), Champaign County, Illinois
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hallway opening. The laundry room, in the southwest corridor, has a drop ceiling, asphalt tile flooring, exposed concrete foundation walls, and a west side basement window. Storage closets are at the north and south ends of the public hallway. At the north end of the public hallway is a large storage room with an exposed concrete floor and concrete foundation walls; the west corridor party wall is brick. At the beginning of the service hallway, which has a concrete floor and brick walls, is the furnace room. This room is a step down from the level of the hallway and also has a concrete floor, concrete and concrete block walls, and a basement sash opening. An exterior door is recessed in the northwest corner. Adjacent to the furnace room, on the north, is the former coal room, now used for storage. A five-horizontal-panel door is at the north end of the hallway and closes off the rear stair hall and kitchen storage areas. This stair hall has a narrow hallway along the south side of the stair tower, which leads west past a storage room to a small maintenance/storage room, which has a single three-light window. At the north end of the stair hall is another storage room with a basement sash and directly across from the stair tower is an added electrical/sprinkler distribution area and fan room with a metal security door. The doors for the stair tower and storage areas are all five-horizontal-panel doors.

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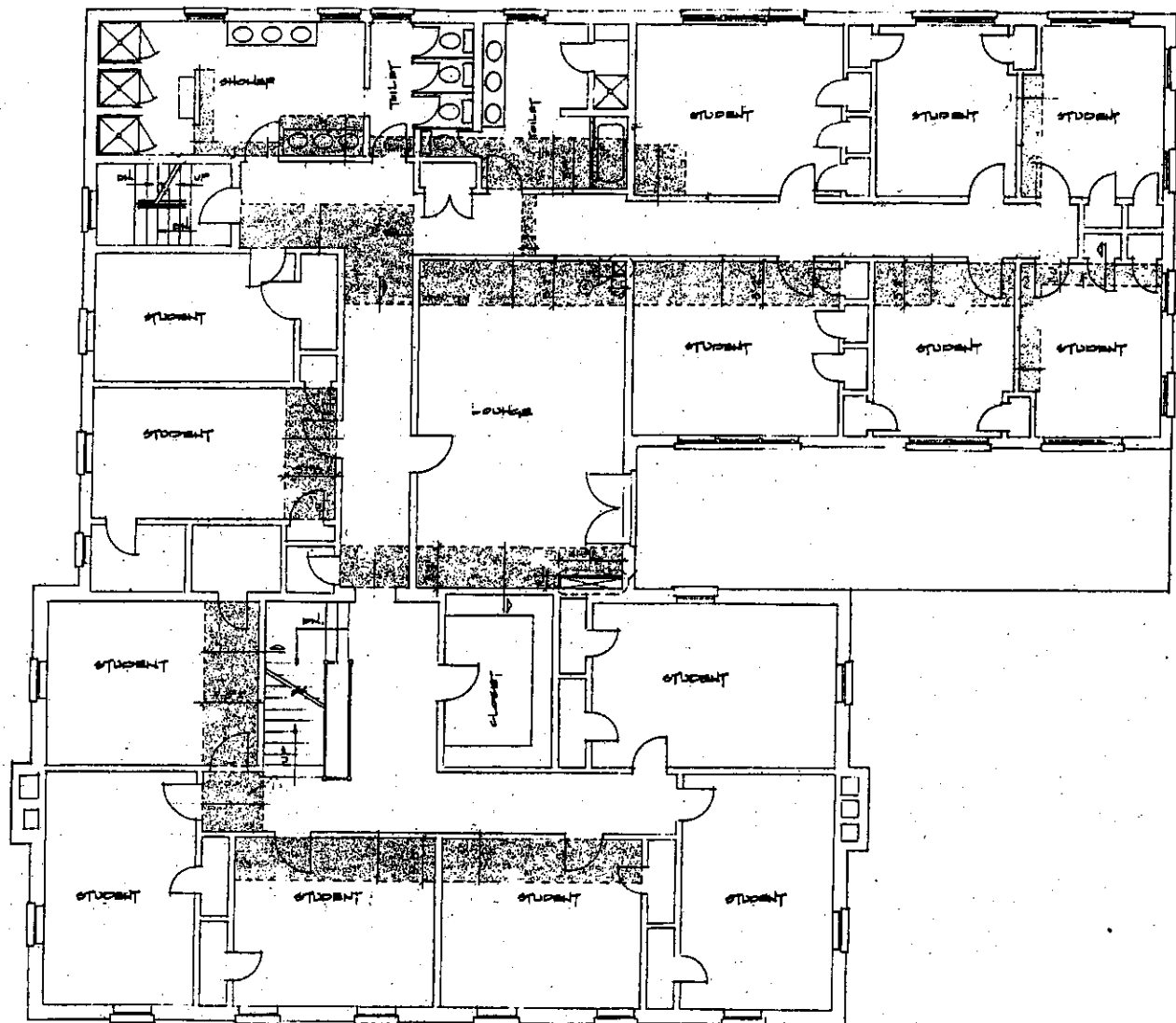


First Floor

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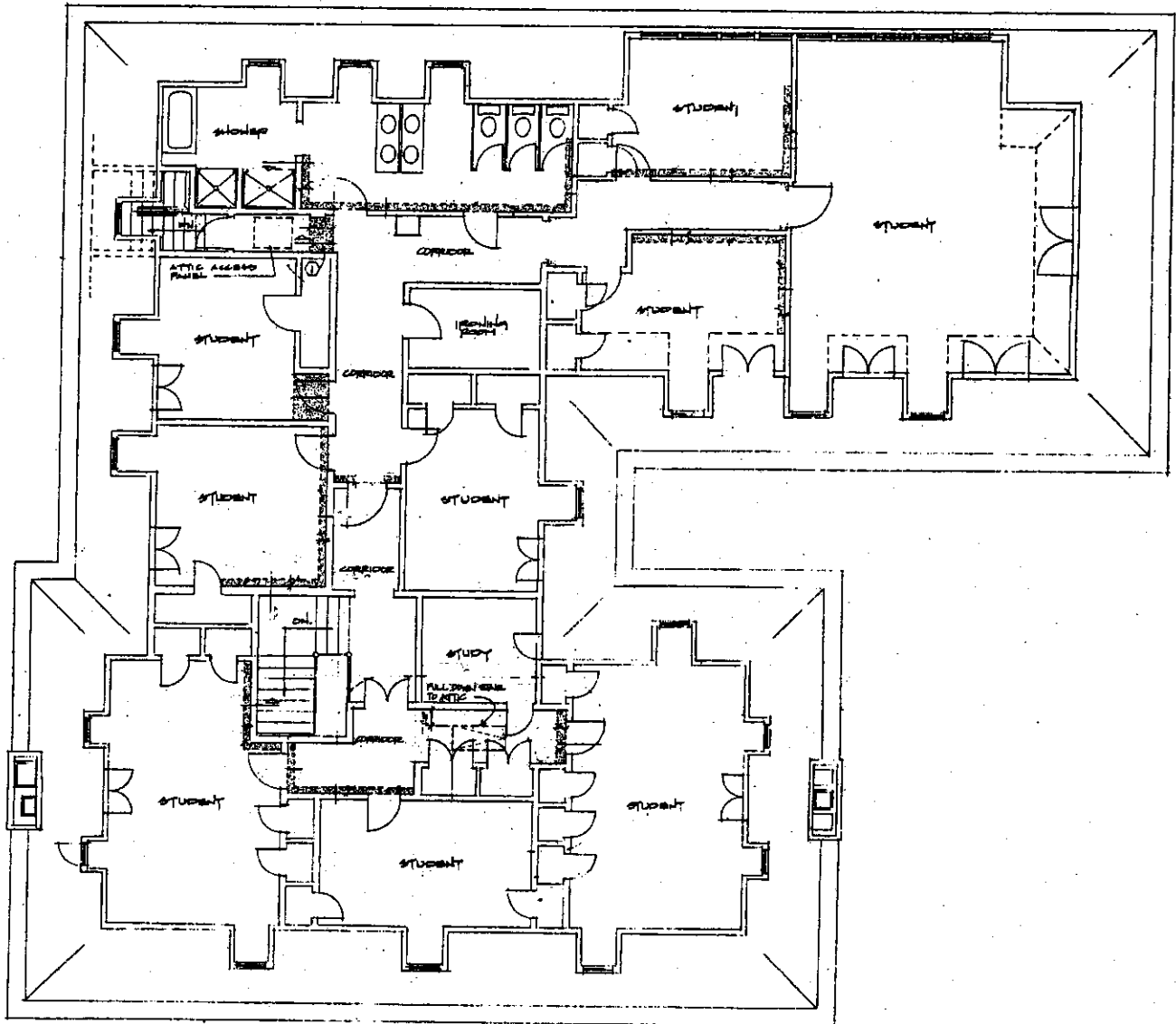
SECOND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

Second Floor

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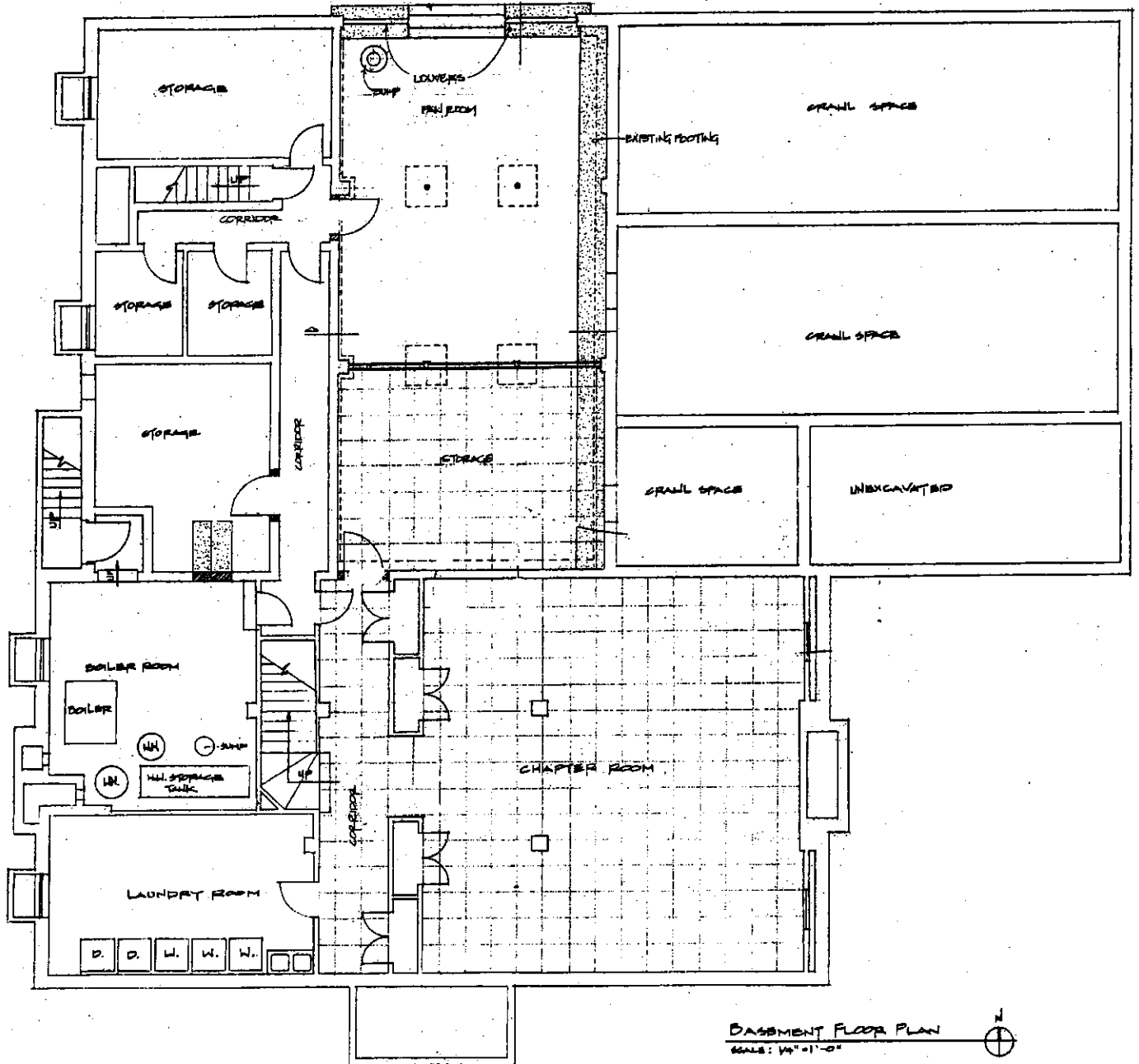
THIRD FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

Third Floor

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Basement

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Narrative Statement of Significance

The locally significant Alpha Phi fraternity house is eligible for listing in 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 the Alpha Phi Sorority 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 Phi Sorority House, 1923 to 1955, reflects the date of the chapter's occupation of 508 East Armory and the National Register fifty-year ending date. 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.

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 Georgian Revival architectural style. Characteristics of this style as shown on the brick Alpha Phi fraternity house include its hip roof, full cornice, graduated six-over-six-light double-hung windows, louvered blinds, and Georgian Revival entryway. Its historic integrity has been maintained over the years. The period of significance is 1938, the year the house was remodeled into the Georgian Revival style.

Criterion A: Education

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.¹ Managing a house not only provided a training ground for 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. Society chapters, 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.²

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.³ 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."⁴ Through such well-designed

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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 Phi, Beta Alpha Chapter

Alpha Phi Fraternity was founded at Syracuse University, New York, in 1872 out of the close association of the twenty women students then enrolled at the school. They met regularly for social and educational reasons and during those times, "an idea was gradually evolved, that by mutual and kindly criticism, greater strength of character might be developed." Men's fraternities already existed on the campus and their organization provided a model for Alpha Phi. Three women, Martha Foote (1876), Kate Hogoboom (1875), and Clara Sittser (1876), provided leadership for the group and they asked all the university women students to join. Seven others accepted the invitation and also became founding members of the new Alpha Phi Fraternity that was officially formed on September 18, 1872, (Founders Day was later moved to October 10). The other founders were Clara Bradley (1876), Florence Chidester (1875), Ida Gilbert (1876), Jane Higham (1876), Grace Hubbell (1875), Rena Michaels (1874), and Louise Shepard (1876). These women wrote the bylaws, motto, ritual, and secretary's book and arranged for a secret chapter room. Their advisor, Professor Coddington, suggested that Alpha Phi be a fraternity, similar to male fraternities, after the Greek word *phrater* or a group of blood relatives, either men or women.⁶

Alpha Phi expanded slowly, especially in comparison to other women's fraternities that were founded around the same time. Alpha Phi's second chapter, Beta, was not founded until 1881 at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. The third chapter, Eta, was established two years later (1883) at Boston University. In comparison, Kappa Alpha Theta, which was established in 1870, had fifty-five chapters by 1920, while Alpha Phi had only twenty-two. Alpha Phi's influence, however, extended beyond the number of its chapters. The fraternity was the first women's fraternity to build its own chapter house (Syracuse, 1886) and the group was a leader in creating a national sorority governing group with their 1902 call for the first Intersorority Conference in Chicago. This conference was a result of Alpha Phi's recognition of growing problems within the women's fraternity system, "problems of hectic rushing, campus extravagances, and the seeming lack of sportsmanship among fraternities." An editorial in the *Alpha Phi Quarterly* stated, "the only successful rushing compact must come from the national fraternities and be binding upon all chapters in all institutions." The National Panhellenic Conference was formed as a result of this meeting.⁷

The idea of bringing a chapter of Alpha Phi to the University of Illinois was begun in 1919 with discussions between the Dean of Women Ruby E.C. Mason and graduate student Sue Hutchinson. Correspondence was begun with the national Alpha Phi organization, but university regulations required that before a national affiliation was allowed, the group had to be organized as an unaffiliated local sorority for at least one year. However, Mason and Hutchinson did not want to go public with their idea until they had received encouragement from the Alpha Phi national. Thus a problem arose as to how to recruit women without a national affiliation. To solve the problem, the organizers decided on a secret organization and recruited six members. The petition to the university to be recognized as a secret organization was submitted in May 1920 and listed the following

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members: Harriet Batterton (1920), Helen Hunt (1920), Dorothy Gross (1920), Marion Woleben (1920), Rachel Griffith (1921), and Nellie Holt (1921). Batterton, Hunt, Griffith, and Holt wrote a constitution and the name "Tau Alpha Theta" was chosen for the new group. Secrecy presented something of a problem in recruiting new members, but by the spring of 1921 the group had twenty-one members.⁸

With the increase in membership, the group felt secure enough to begin the process of petitioning affiliation with Alpha Phi. This process was helped by two Alpha Phi alumnae that were on the university's faculty: Ruth G. Bernbaum (Rho chapter) and Margaret Swain (Beta and Xi chapters). With their help, two patronesses were found to sponsor the group, Mrs. Alice Clark, wife of Dean of Men Thomas Clark, and Mrs. Morgan Brooks, also a wife of a faculty member. The national was contacted and two members were sent in May 1921 to evaluate the group. Before the summer vacation began, Tau Alpha Theta received word that Alpha Phi would allow a petition to affiliate.

During the summer of 1921, new difficulties arose with the university, which was now requiring that the group go public as it was "against the laws of the university to permit a National Organization to come in unless the local group were well organized and in a house." To meet the publicity issue, Tau Alpha Theta published their grades with the other Greek organizations, but the housing issue was a problem. However, during the summer, Sue Hutchinson was able to find an approved house for the group at 714 West California Avenue, Urbana. During the fall, Tau Alpha Theta was busy rushing to fill the house, establishing house rules, and doing charity work. Rushing took priority since the group lost members over the summer and had decreased to only thirteen. That fall there were thirteen actives and six pledges. Charitable causes were also on the group's agenda and their activities were similar to those of other women's fraternities on campus: entertaining soldiers and fund raising for charities. The group even joined the Panhellenic Council.

Affiliation with Alpha Phi awaited fall visits from other chapters, including Northwestern, De Pauw, and the University of Wisconsin, and from national officers, including the national president, *Alpha Phi Quarterly* editor, and a visiting delegate. The chapter made a good impression and by December their petition for affiliation was granted. Initiation took place on February 10-11, 1922 at the chapter house on California Avenue. A formal banquet was held at the Wesley Foundation, as well as a tea at Mrs. Clark's house and a reception at the Women's (English) Building. Twenty-three women are listed as charter members: Nelle Barry (1923), Harriet Batterton (1920), Bernice Burnside (1922), Alice B. Clark (1891), Dorothy Davison (1923), Florence Davison (1923), Sue Hutchinson Dodd (1918), Helen Evans (1923), Esther Giese (1923), Rachel Griffith (1921), Dorothy Gross (1920), Nellie Holt (1923), Helen Hunt (1920), Francis Loomis (1923), Cora Miller (1924), Metta Mitchell (1923), Stella Salvesson (1921), Bernice Taylor (1922), Marjorie Thomas (1924), Thelma Thornsburg (1921), Frances Whitaker (1923), Marion Woleben (1920), and Mary Yearsley (1924).⁹

The group immediately became an official part of university Greek life by pledging \$1,000 toward a column at Memorial Stadium and participating in university sponsored groups and activities.¹⁰ Esther Giese was elected to Psi Xi, an honorary psychology fraternity, to the Women's Cosmopolitan Club, and to the YWCA cabinet. Marguerite Hays joined Iota Sigma Pi, a chemistry fraternity and was promoted to the first cabinet of the YWCA. The education fraternity, Kappa Delta Pi, elected Harriet Batterton, while Metta Mitchell became vice-president of the YWCA and chair of the

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Panhellenic Conference's finance committee. Helen Rothrock was the ingenue lead in a campus play, and in the Illioli Literary Society. Margaret Gardiner was in the girls' orchestra and had a membership in the Woman's Athletic Association. Nelle Barry became president of the Alethenai Literary Society, chairman of the Big Sister movement of the Woman's League, president of Mask and Bauble, and was elected to two scholastic honoraries: Mortar Board and Sigma Delta Phi, a senior honorary. Mildred Thayer received straight A's.

In 1923, the new chapter purchased a house and two lots on Armory Street in Champaign across from the newly constructed university Armory.¹¹ The house and grounds had previously been owned by Professor Horace A. Hollister and his wife, Emma. They bought the property for \$1,700 in 1909 from Fanny B. Sherfy, George M. Fisk, Ida Johnson Fisk, Thomas A. Clark, and Alice V.B. Clark.¹² The Hollisters built the house shortly after purchase with a mortgage for \$5,000.¹³ Horace Hollister was a professor of education and high school visitor at the university. The 400 and 500 blocks of Armory Street were platted as Orchard Place in 1906 by Fanny Sherfy. Fourteen lots were laid out, divided by the 66-foot wide Fifth Street. The street on the south was only 33-feet wide with the university grounds directly south. Originally called Orchard Lane, the street was a continuation of Davidson Street to the west.¹⁴ By 1913, both streets were renamed Armory Street.

During the summer of 1923, the sorority remodeled and redecorated their new house: a two-and-one-half story, Tudor Revival-influenced clapboard and shingle dwelling with a large porch on its southeast corner. Help in purchasing the chapter house came from Dean and Mrs. Clark. The Hollisters sold the property to Alice V.B. Clark in March 1923 for \$16,500. The Clark's then both signed for a mortgage on the property with the Danville Building Association for \$12,000 and dealt with all the legal arrangements.¹⁵ Apparently the Clark's even "floated" the chapter some loans when payments could not be made. When Beta Alpha fifty dollar certificates were sold to remodel the chapter house, Dean Clark was the first person to offer to purchase one and he contributed heavily, both with articles and purchases, to the Christmas bazaars that were held to help pay off the mortgage. In 1930, the Clarks deeded the property to the new chapter house corporation for \$1.00 plus the outstanding mortgage.¹⁶

University activities continued with the purchase of the new chapter house, although some events were held to raise money for the house. In 1923, five members were on the YWCA cabinet, two were on its freshman commission, and four others were engaged in YWCA work. Scholarship was also high, as the fraternity was ranked second out of twenty-seven women's fraternities with an house grade point average of 3.763. Cora Mill was made president of the Illioli Literary Society and Grace Bryant was initiated into it.

In 1926, the chapter reported in the *Alpha Phi Quarterly* the addition of several new bedrooms, an enlarged dining room, and a lovely sun porch to the chapter house. The new space allowed the annual dance to be held for the first time in the house. University activities included Mary Boynton being elected to Omicron Nu, the home economics honorary, and four girls, Oral Williams, Martha Blood, Janet Weston, and Jean Drayer, elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Janet Weston was also chair of the faculty YWCA finance drive, secretary of the YWCA and was president of Pi Mu Epsilon, a math honorary. Martha Blood was made vice-president of the Glee Club with Virginia Thornsburg as treasurer. Hazel Starr became treasurer of Orange Feathers, a freshmen women's activity

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organization, and Frances McGinnis was the social chair of Gold Feathers, one of the six council offices of the sophomore activity organization. Helen Crabbs made Kappa Beta Phi, the professional and honorary law sorority. Frances McGinnis became one of the thirty-two new members of Torch, the junior honor and activities organization, and its vice-president. Both Oral Williams and Martha Blood graduated with honors.

1927 saw the fall pledge dance and Christmas bazaar held at the house. Frances McGinnis was elected president of Women's League, the governing body for Illinois women students. Jean Drayer was chosen valedictorian of the senior class with a grade point average of 4.97 for seven semesters; this was the first time a woman was chosen. She also worked at the student paper, *The Daily Illini* and was in the journalism society, Theta Sigma Phi, and Phi Beta Kappa as a junior. Following her was Janet Weston, who was fourth in scholarship as a senior, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and president of Pi Mu Epsilon. Both women were enrolled on the Bronze Tablet, which lists the ten highest ranking seniors.

The chapter reported similar activities in 1928 with dances, teas, and sales held to raise money for a new chapter house. Athletic activities were also noted. Katherine Fishbaugh was captain of the first women's hockey team and treasurer of Orange and Blue Feathers, the fresh organization. She also made the first freshman basketball team along with Carol Schmidt; Edith Heir made the first junior team and Helen Gregory the second junior team. Carol Schmidt was elected president of the new swim club, Tadpole, with Edith Heier as vice-president. Grace Lockhart became a junior member of Phi Beta Kappa, was on the Mother Day Committee along with being head of the freshman department of the YWCA and volleyball manager for the Women's Athletic Association. Twelve chapter member were initiated into Gold Feathers, the largest number ever with each girl needing one hundred activity points for admission. YWCA chairs included Eleanor Thayer, extension, Frances Howard, faculty finance, and Ramon Pierce, alumnae. It was also reported that during the summer, walls were torn out of the third floor and the roof was raised.

The Women's League style show involved a number of chapter members in 1929. Helen Gregory was made production manager, a position of honor and responsibility. Virginia Scott was chair of the models, Grace Lockhart was chair of ticket sales, and four girls were on committees: Ardath Walter, Evelyn Hammett, Frances Howard, and Carol Schmidt. Lockhart was also manager of the volleyball team, while eight sorority sisters made various other class teams; there were six on the various basketball teams. Ramon Pierce was elected president of the YWCA with Frances Howard in her cabinet; Betty Forrest, Ardath Walter, and Virginia Scott were all YWCA commission members. Six girls were initiated into the Women's Athletic Association for a total of fifteen. In scholarship, Margaret Graves made Phi Beta Kappa, Grace Lockhart, and Marion Baker were listed on the Bronze Tablet, and the chapter was third among sororities in grade point average.

Although changes were being made to the chapter house as needed, the Beta Alpha chapter hoped for a new chapter house. A loan for \$11,000 was arranged for the purchase of two lots on West Ohio Street, Urbana in 1930 from Frank and Katherine Johnson in the new "sorority section" on the east side of campus. A notation was made in the 1931 *The History of Alpha Phi Fraternity, 1872 to 1930* that "Beta Alpha's home, new in 1923, has been remodeled and redecorated from time to time and now that ambitious chapter is undecided whether to rebuild on the old site or to choose a new

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location in the women's fraternity section of the Illinois campus."¹⁷ However, the depression and bank failures apparently squashed the moving idea and the lots were released back to their owners in 1932.¹⁸ In spite of the national economic situation, university social, scholastic, and athletic activities were enthusiastically conducted throughout the 1930s.

In 1930, Harriet Baker was elected to Phi Beta, a national music and drama honorary, and Virginia Acott was chosen one of the eight beauties of the "Illini Follies." Frances Howard was the women's homecoming chair and a member of the dance supervision committee; the chapter won a silver cup in the Homecoming badge sales contest. A number of sorority girls were on the hockey, soccer, and swimming teams. Katherine Fishbaugh was the basketball manager for the Women's Athletic Association and Thelma Warren made the varsity basketball and track teams. Carol Schmidt was the swimming manager and she arranged a telegraphic swimming meet for five big ten universities. She was also the tennis manager, captain of the junior basketball team, a member of the varsity swimming team, and chair of the Terrapin Water Carnival.

The next year, 1931, the chapter took second place in the Homecoming stunt show and participated in Dad's Day activities. Billie Harms, Carol Johnson, Betty Siegrist, and Thelma Warren made Torch, the junior women's honorary for school and campus activities. Three girls were on the 1931 *Illio* staff: Doris Johnson, Mary Louise Hoy, and Virginia Hewitt. Florence Bardwell was secretary of the Students Industrial Commission of the university and Julia Beatty and Ruth Drayer were in the YWCA cabinet. Phi Beta Kappa initiated Virginia Dean, who was also in Mask and Bauble. Five freshmen won the Freshmen Education Cup, which was given to the chapter house having the best freshmen examination on campus activities. Four chapter members were elected to Gold Feathers and three to Orange and Blue Feathers.

The 1932 annual Christmas banquet was changed to a party for nine poor children. The depression also saw the annual formal dance changed to a radio dance, that was both informal and inexpensive. However, university activities continued. Lois Eaton and Ruth Drayer were on the YWCA doll show committee and Julia Beatty and Betty Siegrist were in the Homecoming stunt show. Frances Thurston was publicity chair for Dad's Day with Evelyn Wendt, Lois Eaton, and Julia Beatty on committees. Mother's Day included Lois Eaton on the reception committee, Anne Sherwin on the music committee, and Ruth Drayer on the publicity committee. Julia Beatty was elected president of the YWCA and three sorority members were in her cabinet. Lois Eaton was secretary of Shi-Ai, an honorary sophomore organization; and Helen Bosley, Helen Ward, and Anne Sherwin made Gold Feathers. Two girls joined scholastic honoraries, Julia Beatty, Mortar Board, and Helen Bosley, Torch.

Three dances were held in 1933, the Junior Prom, Senior Informal, and a spring formal chapter house dance. Ever involved Julia Beatty was elected vice-president of the Student Council and Ruth Drayer was elected secretary of the YWCA. Ruth Ann Lyddon was initiated into Torch and Sigma Delta Phi, the speech honorary, along with Gold Feathers. Six chapter members joined Orange and Blue Feathers. Helen Bosley and Ruth Lyddon were elected to the YWCA cabinet for 1934. One member continued scholastic tradition and made Phi Beta Kappa, Carmen Parr. In 1934, the house was redecorated and activities continued as usual. Among the numerous pursuits were Ruth Ann

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Lyddon's election to the Illini Theatre Guild Council and as chair of the YWCA doll show. Rosemary Barnes and Mary Ellen Graham were Shi-Ai initiates.

Plans were announced in 1936 for a new house, but no details were given. However, along with the usual activities and honors, new activities were reported by the chapter. Jane Engle became president of the Panhellenic Council with Jeanne Scarratt as her vice-president. The first woman editor of *The Agriculturist* was Betty Jane Ruddy. Another first was held by Mary Louise Reisner, who was first affirmative speaker in the Varsity Debate squad. Mary Jean Ballance was a straight "A" freshman.

By 1937, the new house was becoming a reality. District Governor Marian Strader visited the chapter and announced that the new house had been approved. In April, Ramon Greving, Beta Alpha of Alpha Phi house corporation president, "bought" the chapter house for \$1.00 and she and her husband then arranged for a \$33,000 mortgage for the work from the Danville Building Association; the house was "sold" back to the corporation for \$1.00 plus the mortgage in June.¹⁹ Work on the new south section was started in March while the chapter was still in residence for the spring semester. By mid-May the front was dug out and cement foundation walls were in place; the house was completed by the late fall. The *Illinois Alumni News* reported in July, "The new Alpha Phi house, being built on the site of the old one, will be of three-story brick veneer, painted white. The old frame house, once the home of Prof. Hollister, which as been moved to the back of the plot, is being incorporated into the new building."²⁰ Sections of the original Hollister house are still apparent in the center of the current building. The new house, designed by Decatur architect Charles Harris, was described in the January 1938 issue of *The Alpha Phi Quarterly*.

... It is a green-shuttered, red-brick Georgian house, set well back on a smooth green lawn. On either side of the entrance is an attractive arrangement of pines and spruces. There is a stone walk leading to the entrance, and a wrought iron railing on both sides of the steps.

Just inside the front door is a very large reception room, simply furnished. . . . To the left of the hall is the cardroom, furnished in maple . . . The girls especially like this room because they can smoke here and listen to the radio and phonograph.

The library is next to the card-room. . . . Across from and east of the library is the living room. Here on the east side of the room is a lovely marble fireplace with a very interesting grouping of furniture around it. . . . The dining room is at the far end of the hall, directly in front of the entrance. It is a very large room with recessed shelves on both sides of the doors which lead to the service quarters. . . .

Mrs. Barnes, the chaperone, has a suite of rooms (sitting-room, bedroom, and bath) on the first floor. There are ten bed-rooms for the girls and there is a large airy dormitory on the third floor. And, they have a room reserved for guests . . . The recreation room and chapter room are in the basement.²¹

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Even with construction all around them, the chapter women continued to excel. Virginia Holland made the university women's Debate Team, Varsity Rifle team, and Mask and Bauble. Mary Jean Ballance was elected president of Torch. Evelyn Onken and Ruth-Helen Burlison were inducted into Sigma Alpha Iota, the national professional music fraternity. 1938 activities mirrored those of previous years. Ruth Pitann became a member of the junior council of the Women's League. A sorority beauty, Virginia Ehler, was a candidate for Junior prom queen. Peg Lively made Terrapin, the swimming honorary. Scholastically, the chapter rose from a low rank to fourth in scholarship among women's fraternities helped by the straight "A" averages of Mary Jean Ballance and Eleanor Anderson. Anderson and Betty Rowe became eligible for Alpha Lambda Delta, the scholastic honorary for freshmen women.

Mary Jean Ballance continued her academic achievements in 1939 as a Phi Beta Kappa member, president of Torch, junior women's editor of the *Illio*, member of Shi-Ai, and Alpha Lambda Delta. Billie Mayer and Barbara Barney were chosen to appear on the radio in a series of weekly plays, while Dorothie Cutler and Merry Jane Orr appeared in the all-university stunt show. The new decade began with similar chapter activities. Mary Jacobs and Barbara Barney were in Shi Ai. Alice Van Dyke was elected to the junior council of the Women's League with Marian Millizen on the sophomore council. The *Illio* had Eleanor Anderson as junior editor. A number of girls were working on the Women's League show.

The highlight of 1941 was the composition of a new Alpha Phi song by two chapter members. Margaret Burlison, a music major, and Alice Hester, an English major, wrote "Alpha Phi Fireside" in a modern idiom. The song won top honors for the chapter in the Inter-Sorority Singing Contest. Other achievements that year included Eleanor Anderson's election to Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Psi; she was also the editor of the *Illio*. Alice Van Dyke was the chair of the first all-university dance and five members joined Mortar Board.

The chapter engaged in war related activities in 1942. They held an open house for seventy-five aviation cadets from Chanute Field and the whole chapter helped roll Red Cross bandages. In addition, the girls wrote letters to Illini who were in service and helped at the student alumni service. The annual Christmas party was cancelled with the money going to a needy family. The winter formal was held at the chapter house with the decoration money given to the USO. Individual achievements included Betty Ann Richards being inducted into Scimitar, the national fencing fraternity; she was also a junior member of the Student Alumni Board and a candidate for Junior Prom queen. Numerous members were in various school theater productions.

War-related work continued in 1943 with activities for Chanute and campus navy cadets. There were war-themed teas and dances and the chapter sold war stamps before dinner each week. But the members continued with school activities as well. Portia Wells and Dorothy Freeman joined Shi-Ai and the chapter won the Shi-Ai sing held at the 1942 Mother's Day. Patricia Engel was a candidate for vice-president of the junior class. Three chapter members were on the *Daily Illini* staff and ten were active in the Illini Theater Guild. In 1944, Loyayne Lipsker made Phi Beta Kappa and Isabelle Marvine was the senior business manager of the *Daily Illini*, the ranking student in journalism with an "A" average, and a new member of Kappa Tau Alpha, the journalism honorary. Three other members made the freshman honorary, Alpha Lambda Delta.

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Beta Alpha sent "goody" boxes to overseas servicemen and held open houses for Chanute cadets in 1945. They also entertained hospitalized soldiers at Chanute and were listed on the "Pow-Wow" roll for 100% participation in a fund raiser for the Red Cross. University activities included the following. Jean Buckner was appointed business manager of the annual YWCA Doll Show with Mary Ellen Attebery as committee chair. The chapter won the doll show. Barbara Richardson moved up the ranks of the *Daily Illini* as sophomore reporter, junior editor, assistant and associate editors, and finally, editor. She was also made a member of Theta Sigma Phi, the journalism honorary, and Shorter Board, the junior women's honorary. Barbara Gilbreath was also on the *Daily Illini* staff as a sophomore and junior editor and, along with Martha Swain, was in Shi-Ai. Gilbreath was also the secretary of the new Illini Inter-racial Council. Three sorority girls made Torch. In 1946, the chapter won second place in the resumed Homecoming decoration contest. Aline Fairbanks became the first girl to march with the university band on Dad's Day. The chapter also won first prize in the YWCA Doll Show, with the proceeds donated to orphaned children, and they won the inter-house basketball tournament.

1947 and 1948 continued previous activities. Members made honoraries including Martha Swain, Phi Beta Kappa, Margo Flock, Theta Sigma Phi (she maintained straight "A"'s for three years), and Jane Ann Schoonmacher, Terrapin. Flock received a School of Journalism scholarship given to an outstanding student in memory of alumnae of the school who died in the war. Schoonmacher was also president of the Women's Athletic Association and Patricia Smith received the lead in the campus musical. The chapter achieved first place in Panhellenic scholarship for the first semester and third place for the preceding second semester. They also took first place in the inter-sorority sing on Mom's Day. Two chapter members were in Shi-Ai, three were in Torch, and two were finalists for Illinois beauty queen.

Beauty was again in the forefront in 1949-1950. Adele Mason was a final contestant for Dolphin Queen and Jane Seymore for *Illio* Beauty. The chapter was among the first quartile in scholastic honors out of nineteen sororities and received first place in the spring carnival for the second straight year. A sorority honor, the Beta Alpha chapter hosted the Alpha Phi District V convention for the first time. Chapter members were involved in the same groups as in previous years. Special mention was made of Joan Reeve, who was secretary of the Student Senate and secretary-treasurer of the Junior Class. Ginny Polzin was on the staff of WILL radio and Maria Renor graduated in three years. She received numerous academic honors and was the assistant editor of the *Daily Illini*.

1950 was an important year for the house when the north addition was completed; it increased occupancy from thirty-nine to fifty-three girls. A \$70,000 mortgage financed the renovation plus retirement of the existing mortgage; the addition was designed by architect Lyle V. DeWitt and Associates (Decatur) and built by E.N. DeAtley. The northeast corner addition, which cost \$50,000, added a new dining room and upper story sleeping rooms. It was described as follows.

... Top floor of the addition to the northeast of the main house will be a dormitory with a bath and dressing rooms, while the second floor will have six bedrooms for 14 co-eds, a bath and a smoking room.

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Alpha Phi Fraternity House (Beta Alpha Chapter), Champaign County, Illinois
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French doors will open off the second floor to a sun deck on the south. The first floor will contain a new dining room, a powder room, and a porch under the sun deck.

The former dormitory is being converted into three bedrooms for 10 girls and the former dining room is being made into a lounge. The kitchen has been widened, a new sink, snack bar and walk-in refrigerator are being installed.

The chaperon's room is being enlarged and other improvements such as a wash room for waiters and a new storage room, are planned.²²

The first floor of the house was described in *The Alpha Phi Quarterly* as having an extremely modern hall. To either side of the doorway were a buzzer room and mail room; to the left of the hall was the smoking room. The hall lead directly into a new informal lounge and there was an entrance hall between the lounge and the new dining room. Large windows made the dining room especially cheerful and the room was ideal for house dances. Passing from the dining room into the living room was a small hallway with one door leading to the porch of the new addition and another entering a powder room. The living room was merely redecorated to follow the new scheme in the rest of the house.²³ The new house must have inspired the chapter as they won the Homecoming decorations trophy for 1951. Estelle Anderson was in Army ROTC where she received the rank of honorary cadet colonel; she reviewed troops and presented medals and honors. In addition, she was vice-president of the Panhellenic Council, on Shorter Board, and in the student senate, theater guild, WILL, and union committees.

The next three years saw the chapter continuing their scholastic, educational, and charitable activities. Members were inducted into Torch, Mask & Bauble, Terrapins, and Phi Kappa Phi. Five chapter members were honored at a Panhellenic Scholarship Banquet for the thirty-three sorority girls with 5.0 grade point averages. Sue Brown was elected one of the 100 outstanding seniors. Two girls won the YWCA bridge tournament and three were chairs of YWCA committees. Senior Donna Frame was chosen to represent the university at Advertising Day in St. Louis. Betty Jean McDougall was elected Miss Indiana in the Homecoming Court and Rita Smith held a major chair in the Red Cross. The chapter held a party for needy children at Christmas and won the YWCA Doll Show once again. In 1953, the chapter hosted "State Day" for all the Illinois Alpha Phi chapters.

Criterion C: Architecture

The Alpha Phi chapter house was remodeled from a Tudor Revival-influenced design into a Georgian Revival in 1937 by Decatur architect, Charles Harris. The Georgian Revival style is a period or academic revival style that coincided with the Colonial Revival. Both styles were meant to evoke America's early years. The 1876 centennial celebration in Philadelphia inspired American's to look to their own past. Architects McKim, Mead, White, and Bigelow studied original New England Colonial, Georgian and Federal buildings in a well-publicized tour. By 1886, the McKim, Mead, and White firm had introduced the formal Georgian Revival with their H.A.C. Taylor House (Newport, Rhode Island).²⁴

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Early examples of the style were rarely historically correct adaptations, but were inspired by colonial details. However, proponents of the style pushed for more authentic examples with correct proportions and details. This was encouraged by various architectural publications that published photographs and measured drawings of actual Georgian and Colonial Revival buildings. One influential publication was the 1915 *White Pine Series of Architectural Monographs*. Popular magazines such as *Ladies Home Journal* and *House Beautiful*, along with architectural service organizations like the Home Owners Service Institute and the Architects' Small House Service Bureau promoted the style. The restoration of Colonial Williamsburg, beginning in 1925, also greatly influenced the widespread popularity of this traditional style. The depression of the 1930s and World War II led to a simplification of the style, although its popularity continued.²⁵

The Georgian Revival architectural style shares characteristics with the Colonial Revival style, but are generally more formal and historically correct. Among the details are quoins as corner accents, dormer windows with pediments, and hipped or gable roofs with large chimneys. Formal symmetry with three to five bays and a center entrance is almost always used. Entrances are articulated with classical entablatures, often with pediments or porticos, and fanlights and sidelights. Doors are generally paneled. Windows are double-hung with either six-over-six-light or twelve-over-twelve-light sash; upper story windows are proportionally smaller than those of the first story. Buildings are generally brick in construction often with Flemish bond coursing. Cornices have modillions and dentils.²⁶

Alpha Phi Chapter House

The Alpha Phi chapter house is a good local example of the Georgian Revival architectural style. Built in 1937, the construction was a major remodeling of the original 1909 Tudor Revival-influenced house. The original house remains as the northwest section of the current building. Georgian Revival style elements are expressed through the building's brick construction and brick quoins as well as by the slightly raised "foundation" with watertable. Symmetrical in design, the five bay facade has a formal center entry and flanking double-hung windows. The entrance has a six-panel door with a simple round-arch blind fanlight in place of a pediment. Four-light sidelights over panels flank the entry. Delicate "Adamesque" railings also flank the doorway and lead down the wide concrete entrance porch. Six-over-six light double-hung sash are symmetrically placed throughout the building; those on the second story are proportionally smaller than those of the first story. Similar pedimented gable-roof dormers are used on the hip roof. Large chimneys with stone caps project from the east and west elevations. A full cornice with modillion blocks encircles the main house and continues, sans modillion blocks, around the service section and addition.

Georgian Revival details are also used within the house. The living room has an elegant federal neo-classical style mantel centered in the east wall and flanked by six-over-six light windows. Pink marble with a wood outer molding surrounds the wide fireplace opening; three-inch square red tiles form the hearth. The wood mantle has fluted pilasters complete with bases and plain architraves; a wide frieze spans the width of the fireplace. It has carved fan oval paterae over the pilasters and a wide center fan-oval set in a raised rectangular panel. Above, the wide

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mantel shelf has a molded cornice. A simple three-panel overmantle, consisting of applied moldings creating narrow panels flanking a center wide panel, completes the ensemble. Also on the interior is an open double-L plan staircase runs that from the foyer to the second story, where it continues as a quarter-turn staircase to the third story. Decorative, Colonial Revival style turned balusters, two per step, continue from the volute base newel post to the third story. Gooseneck oak handrails terminate at each of the fluted vase secondary newel posts.

The addition, constructed in 1950, follows the main details of the 1938 house, but in a simpler form as befitting its rear secondary position.

Architects

Two Decatur architects were responsible for the changes made to the Alpha Phi chapter house. In 1937, Charles Harris designed the initial Georgian Revival remodeling of the house. Harris was a 1910 graduate of the University of Illinois with a degree in Architectural Engineering. He joined the staff of the University in 1921 as an architectural draftsman, moving up through the ranks until he was Superintendent of Building and Construction and Assistant Supervising Architect. He left in 1929 to start a practice in Decatur with partner, Rodney Spangler, also a University of Illinois architecture graduate (1921). The firm went on to design over 131 buildings in central Illinois, including the Illinois Terminal Passenger Station, the Macon County Court Facilities, and numerous schools. Harris retired in 1958 and the firm became known as Spangler, Beall, Salogga, and Bradley Architects; it is now the firm of BLDD.²⁷

The 1950 addition was designed by Decatur architect Lyle Vinson DeWitt. A native of Green City Missouri, DeWitt went to the University of Illinois, graduating with a Master's Degree in Architecture in 1937. In 1938, at age 23, he designed the Sullivan County Courthouse in Missouri. He was employed by Berger & Kelly, Champaign, Illinois from 1934 to 1937 and 1938 to 1939. DeWitt then formed his own company, DeWitt & Lasswith Architects (1939-1941); during World War II, he worked for A.E. Staley Manufacturing Co., Decatur. After the war, he was principal in numerous architectural firms until retiring in 1995. The only other local building thus far attributed to him is the Winkelmann Building at 211 South Race Street, Urbana (1949), which was razed in 2004.²⁸

Contractors

According to his obituary, Champaign contractor Edward N. DeAtley was the builder of the Alpha Phi chapter house in 1937 and its addition in 1950. Born in Kentucky, Mr. DeAtley moved to Champaign around 1904 when he went to work for a prolific local contractor, A.W. Stoolman. He soon became general superintendent for Stoolman's firm. Later, he was superintendent for a another construction company headed by Glen North. DeAtley started his own construction company in the 1920s. His work included numerous apartment buildings, including the San Carlos, Manor, Pembroke, and eight others; the University of Illinois Law Building (1954-56); and two other sorority houses, Alpha Chi Omega and Delta Gamma. He also built the apartment/condominium complex, Delmont Village (1939) in Urbana.²⁹

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Context

Other chapter houses at the University of Illinois were built in the Georgian Revival, Colonial Revival, and Classical Revival architectural styles. Among the Georgian Revival houses are Sigma Phi Epsilon, Sigma Nu, Delta Phi, and Sigma Kappa.

Sigma Phi Epsilon, 1105 South Fourth Street, Champaign was built in 1927. It is a large, three-story brick house with a gable roof and recessed entry block set between projecting gable-roof pavilions. Stone quoins, belt courses, and keystones accent the brick. Windows are six-over-six-light double-hung sash, those on the first story having three-light transoms. French doors open from the gable pavilions and a recessed south wing onto the full-width brick terrace that fronts the house. The entryway is stone with fluted Corinthian pilasters, a full entablature with cushioned frieze, modillion blocks, and broken apex pediment. Leaded glass sidelights and transom decorate the entry. Above the entry, the second and third stories of the center section are recessed. Stone shield plaques flank the entryway. This is a very formal Georgian Revival chapter house.

Built in 1924, the Sigma Nu chapter house is at 1009 West Pennsylvania Avenue, Urbana. It was constructed in brick with a double-slope slate roof with parapet end gables. Large interior brick chimneys accent the parapet gable ends and a brick belt course accents the wall plane. The facade has seven bays with a center entry and flanking sixteen-over-eight-light sash on the first story (segmental arches) and six-over-six-light windows on the second story (flat arches). The entryway has flanking wood Ionic pilasters, a full entablature with dentils, and a swan neck broken apex pediment with volutes. Above the door is a decorative five-light transom. A full plain wood entablature extends the length of the building.

Delta Phi, 1008 South Fourth Street, Champaign, is a 1926 two-and-one-half story brick residence with a projecting five bay center pavilion and recessed two bay side wings. The center pavilion has a stone belt course, six-over-six-light double-hung windows with flat arches, and a full entablature with modillion blocks. The asphalt-shingle hip roof has a center triple shed roof dormer with three "gables" above. A projecting portico shelters the entry. It has wood Doric columns and pilasters, a full entablature with a large half-round open bed pediment. There is a concrete deck and steps and a one-light transom is above the paneled door. The recessed wings have six-over-nine-light double-hung windows and two gable roof dormers.

Also constructed in the Georgian Revival style is the Sigma Kappa house at 303 East John Street, Champaign. Built in 1921, the house is also a two-and-one-half story brick residence with an asphalt-shingle hip roof. Its seven bay facade has a recessed two bay wing on its west end. The first story has tall paired twelve-light casements with six-light transoms and louvered blinds flanking the entryway. On the second story are paired eight-light casements. The casements have brick flat arches and stone keys; all the windows are replacement sash in their original openings. A full dentilated entablature is at the top of the building, below five segmentally-curved six-light dormers. Engaged Ionic columns flank the entry, which also has a full dentilated entablature and broken apex pediment. The west end wing has two nine-over-

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nine-light sash on the first story and one-over-one-light sash on the second story; two larger dormers are above.

Summary

The Alpha Phi chapter house is an excellent local example of the Georgian Revival architectural style. The addition of a rear wing has not detracted from the house's architectural design and the building retains its integrity. In addition, the Alpha Phi chapter house 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," and reflects 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).

Endnotes

1. Karen Lang 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), E.5.
2. MPD, E.11 to E.12.
3. MPD, E.13.
4. Ibid.
5. Olive Finley Singleton, *The History of Alpha Phi International Fraternity: 1872-1930* (New York: The Century Co., 1931), XIX-XX.
6. Ruth Sanders Thomson, *History of the Alpha Phi Fraternity: from the founding in 1872 through the year 1902*, Vol. I (Norwood, Mass.: Plimpton Press/The Alpha Phi International Fraternity, 1943), 13-14 and 23.
7. Alice Morgan Roedel, *History of the Alpha Phi Fraternity: from the founding in 1872 through the year 1951* (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1951), 334.
8. *The History of the Alpha Phi Fraternity 1872-1922, First Fifty Years* (New York: The Century Company, 1923), 314-315.
9. Ibid., 320-321.
10. All information concerning chapter activities is from *The Alpha Phi Quarterly*, 1922 through 1955.
11. Champaign County Deed Book 189, page 149 dated 24 March 1923, recorded 5 April 1923.

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12. Champaign County Deed Book 140, page 526 dated 30 August 1909, recorded 3 September 1909.
13. Champaign County Mortgage Book 205, page 246 dated 1 September 1909 to Commercial Building and Loan Association, Urbana.
14. Champaign County Plat Book B, page 264 filed 26 June 1906.
15. Champaign County Mortgage Book 270, page 142 dated 23 March 1923.
16. Cora K. Miller, "Thomas Arkle Clark and Beta Alpha," *The Alpha Phi Quarterly*, Vol. XLV, #1 (March 1933), 136-137 and Champaign County Deed Book 216, page 353 dated 24 March 1930, recorded 27 March 1930.
17. *The History of the Alpha Phi Fraternity, from 1872 through 1931* (New York: Century Company, 1931), 357.
18. Champaign County Deed Book 226, page 223 dated 22 March 1930, recorded 19 October 1931; and Deed Book 229, page 28 dated 15 September 1932, recorded 9 November 1932.
19. Champaign County Deed Book 235, page 513 dated 19 April 1937, recorded 7 May 1937; and Champaign County Deed Book 239, page 242 dated 9 June 1937, recorded 22 June 1937.
20. *Illinois Alumni News*, Vol. 15, #10 (July 1937), 22.
21. Margaret I. Carr, "Beta Alpha's Inviting New Home," *The Alpha Phi Quarterly*, Vol. 1, #1 (January 1938), 25-26.
22. "New Alpha Phi Addition Ready at U.I. Start," undated newspaper article in Alpha Phi Records, Series 41/72/10, Box #3 in Student Life and Culture Archives of the University of Illinois.
23. Virginia Polzin, "A Guided Tour of Beta Alpha's House," *The Alpha Phi Quarterly*, Vol. LXIII, #11 (March 1951), 130-131.
24. Stephen Gordon, *How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory* (Columbus, Ohio: Ohio Historic Preservation Office, 1992), 100-101; and Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985), 321-326.
25. Ibid.
26. Ibid.

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27. Project information supplied by the Decatur branch of BLDD, architectural firm, and interview with Charles Harris, Jr., 25 March 2005 by Karen Lang Kummer. Harris's obituary is in the *Decatur Herald and Review*, 28 July 1981.

28. Lyle DeWitt obituary, Milan Missouri, *Standard*, 10 July 2003 and files at the Champaign County Archives, Urbana Free Library.

29. "Longtime Civic Leader Edward DeAtley," *The Courier*, 7 April 1979.

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Harris, Charles. "Obituary." *Decatur Herald and Review*. 28 July 1981.

Harris, Charles, Jr.. Interview with Karen Lang Kummer. 25 March 2005.

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"New Alpha Phi Addition Ready at U.I. Start." undated newspaper article in Alpha Phi Records, Series 41/72/10, Box #3 in Student Life and Culture Archives of the University of Illinois.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Lots Eleven (11) and Twelve (12) in Orchard Place Subdivision, being an addition to the City of Champaign in Champaign County, Illinois.

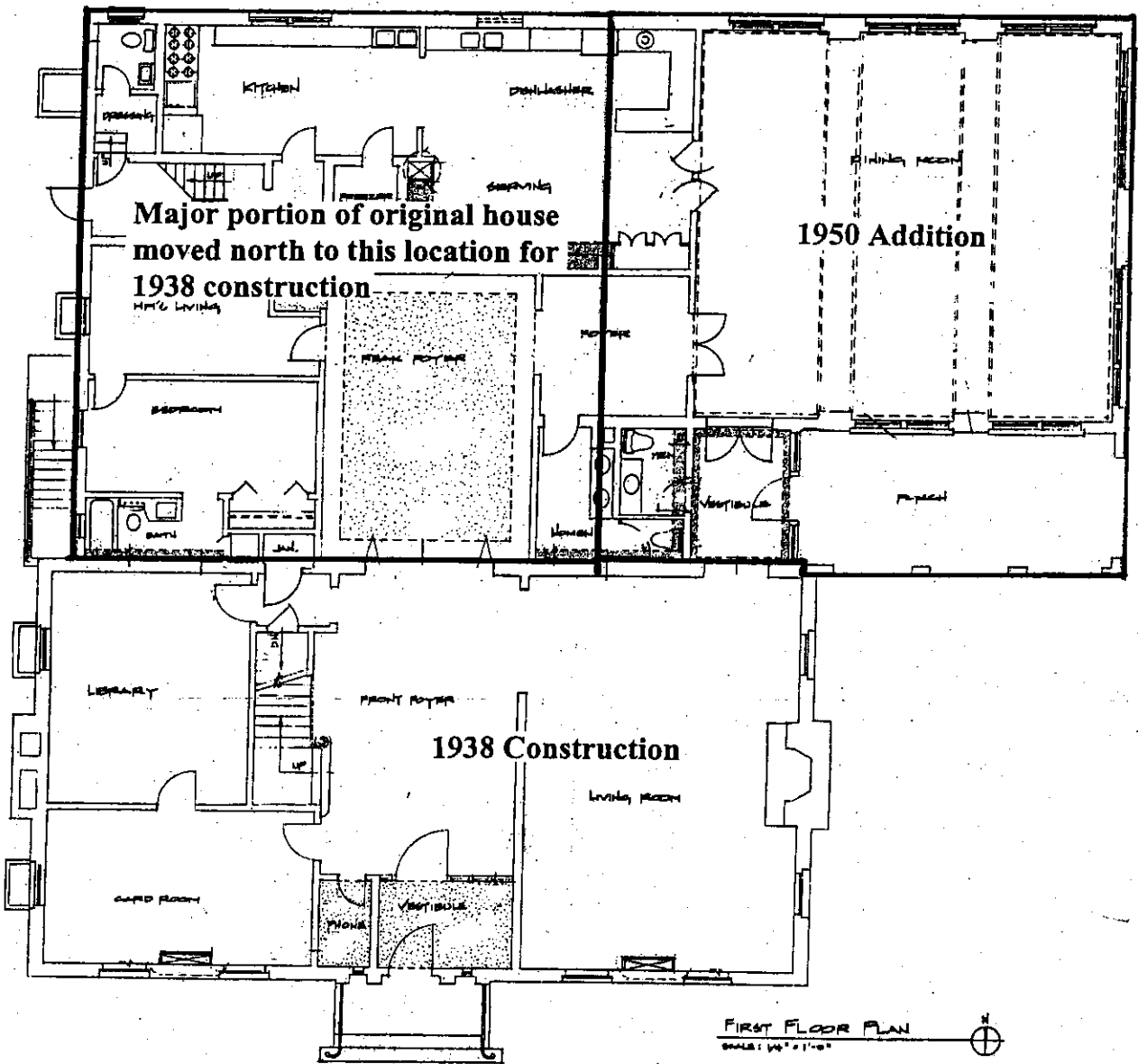
Boundary Justification

The nomination includes the two lots historically associated with the Alpha Phi Sorority House at 508 East Armory Street, Champaign, Illinois.

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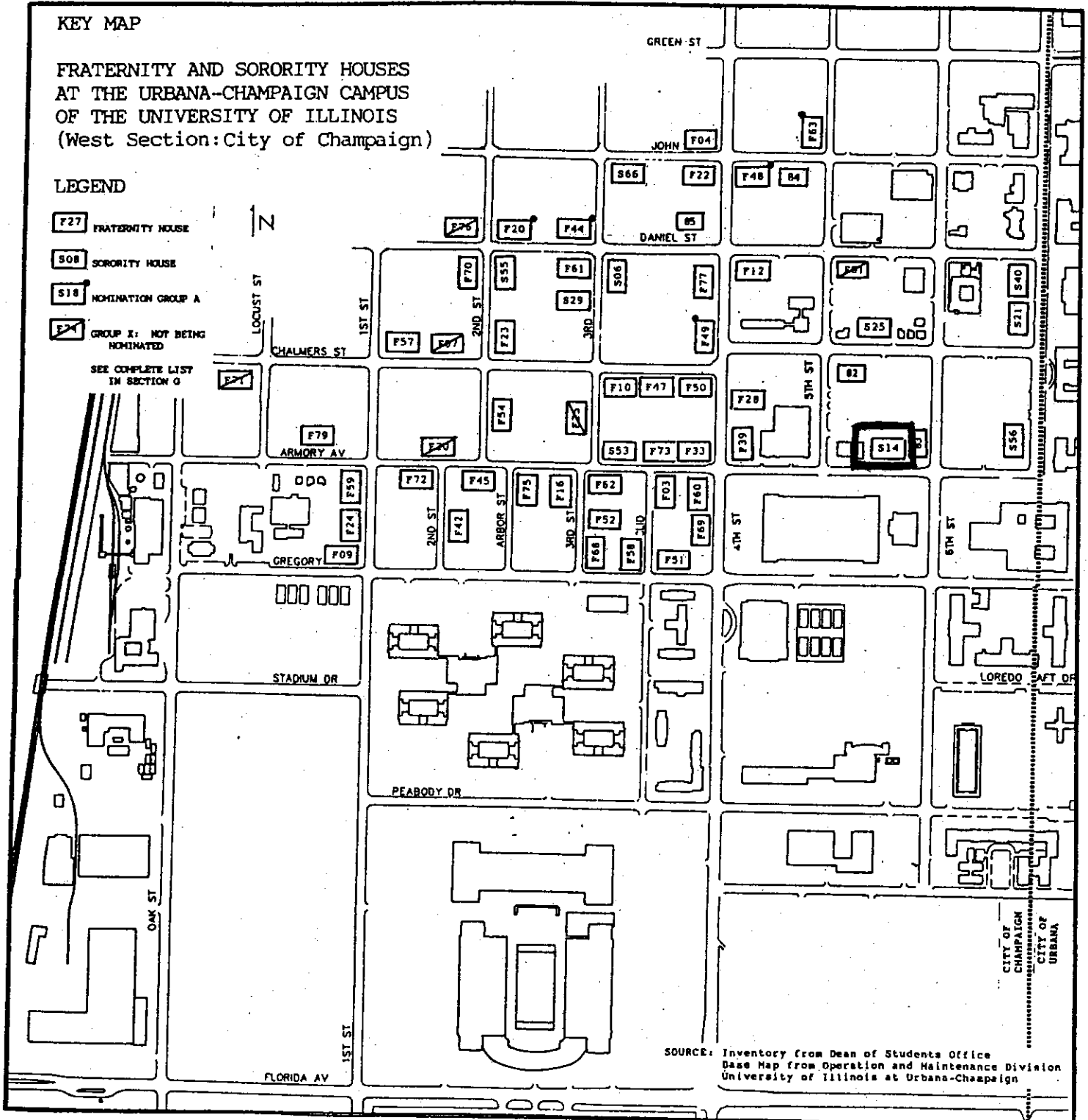


First Floor

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City of
CHAMPAIGN

Planning Department 102 N. Neil Street Champaign, IL 61820 217-403-8800 www.ci.champaign.il.us

September 2, 2005

Tracey A. Sculle
Survey & National Register Coordinator
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois
62701-1507

Dear Ms. Scully:

I am happy to report to you that the Champaign Historic Preservation Commission has reviewed and recommended favorably on two cases forwarded to us by your agency for local review.

On August 4, 2005, they reviewed the application for 508 E. Armory, AΦ Sorority, BA Chapter, and found that it qualified under Criteria A & C.

On September 1, 2005, they reviewed 1006 So 6th Street, and found that it qualified under Criteria C.

We will bring fuller documentation to your scheduled meeting in Urbana on September 8, 2005, but because of the short turnaround time we are faxing this notice to you for your information.

The Champaign Historic Preservation Commission recommends that the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency forward these two Nominations for placement on the National Register of Historic Places to the United States Department of the Interior with recommendations for approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Phillips", written over a horizontal line.

Kevin Phillips
Zoning Administrator
Kevin.Phillips@ci.champaign.il.us



**Illinois Historic
Preservation Agency**

1 Old State Capitol Plaza • Springfield, Illinois 62701-1507 • Teletypewriter Only (217) 524-7128

Voice (217) 782-4836

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Gerald Schweighart, City of Champaign
Kevin Phillips, Champaign Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Tracey A. Sculle, Survey and National Register Coordinator *TAS*

DATE: June 9, 2005

SUBJECT: Preliminary Opinion on the Alpha Phi Fraternity House-Beta Alpha Chapter
508 East Armory Avenue, Champaign, Illinois

It is my opinion that Alpha Phi Fraternity House-Beta Alpha Chapter in Champaign is locally significant under Criterion A for educational history and Criterion C for architecture for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This fraternity is nominated under the Fraternity and Sorority Houses at the Urbana-Champaign Campus of the University of Illinois Multiple Property Submission, which was accepted by the National Park Service in 1989. In 1923, Alpha Phi Fraternity-Beta Alpha Chapter purchased an existing Tudor Revival house located at 508 East Armory Avenue. In 1938, the house was substantially remodeled in the Georgian Revival style by Decatur architect Charles Harris. The building compares favorably with other fraternities and sororities in Champaign-Urbana designed in this style. This fraternity clearly reflects the growth and development of the Greek Letter Society houses and their association with the educational structure of the university. The period of significance of this property under Criterion A is from 1923, when the building was purchased by the Alpha Phi Fraternity, to 1955, the fifty year cutoff for significance to the National Register. Under Criterion C for architecture, the period of significance is 1938, when the house was remodeled in the Georgian Revival style. While there have been changes over time to the building, as the needs of the fraternity evolved, the exterior and interior retain integrity.



Planning Department 102 N. Neil Street Champaign, IL 61820 217-403-8800 www.ci.champaign.il.us

September 8, 2005

Tracey A. Sculle
Survey & National Register Coordinator
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois
62701-1507

Dear Ms. Scully:

I am happy to report to you that the Champaign Historic Preservation Commission has reviewed and recommended favorably on this case forwarded to us by your agency for local review.

On August 4, 2005, we reviewed the application for 508 E. Armory, AΦ Sorority, BA Chapter, and found that it qualified under Criteria A & C.

The Champaign Historic Preservation Commission recommends that the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency forward this Nomination for placement on the National Register of Historic Places to the United States Department of the Interior with a recommendation for approval.

Sincerely,

Gary Olsen
Chair, Champaign Historic Preservation Commission

**Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes
August 4, 2005**

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was brought to order at 4:15 p.m.

2. **Roll Call.** Members Present. Martin; Appel; Wacholtz; Smith; Chalifoux; Olsen;
and Stock

Staff Present. Phillips; Crowley

3. **Approval of Minutes.**

Stock – Moves to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2005 meeting as written; **Chalifoux** seconds, and the vote is unanimous.

4. **Old Business.**

5. **New Business.** **Phillips** - The last property that was approved for local landmark status, the Georgian apartment building will be coming forward for a recommendation for National nomination.

- **PL05-0067 – 508 E. Armory Review of Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (Alpha Phi Fraternity House – Beta Alpha Chapter)**

Phillips – The applicant, Karen Kummer, is applying on behalf of the Society of Greek Housing. The property is the Alpha Phi Sorority, Beta Alpha Chapter at 508 E. Armory. This is a good example of the Georgian Revival style, which falls under National Criterion C. Phillips then goes on to commend Kummer on presenting such a thorough report. Staff recommends that this nomination be forwarded to the State and National Registers with a recommendation for approval.

Karen Kummer, PACA – The Society for the Preservation of Greek Housing, which is a local not-for-profit group, has an ongoing program of nominating chapter houses to the National Register. This is the 13th or 14th such chapter house that's been nominated since the mid- to late-'80s. This falls under a multiple property nomination form, which outlines the entire history of the Greek system at the University of Illinois. The sorority is in favor of this nomination. She is here to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Olsen – At least 6 architects in this town have worked on this building. The Commission should consider only the exterior of the house. What was the style before it became more Georgian? **Kummer** – Tudor Revival. Much smaller – it was a single family home initially.

Olsen - Can you tell us about the Greek Society? **Kummer** – The Society for the Preservation of Greek Housing? It was formed in the mid-1980's to help chapter house with ongoing renovation, rehabilitation and upkeep of the historic Greek chapter houses. At one time, in the 1930's, the U of I had the most Greek chapter houses of any university in the United States (approximately 80 active chapters). Over the years, these have dwindled. Many of the homes that were built from 1900 through 1940 are the mansions that we have left in Champaign-Urbana. With the declining population of the Greek society, they're running in problems with upkeep, and also the houses don't adapt to what the students are looking for today (private rooms, computer access, etc.) The Society was formed to help them with fund raising and upkeep. We help them with fund raising. We're a foundation that can accept tax deductible contributions toward building maintenance for brick and mortar. Normally the chapters are considered educational foundations and non-profits, so any money that's given directly to a Greek chapter house can only be used tax deductibly for education-related purposes, not bricks and mortar. People can donate earmarking their funds to certain chapter houses. To date the society has granted over \$3M to the various houses on the university.

Olsen – There are always fraternities and sororities that are having problems. Is there a list of endangered fraternities and sororities? **Kummer** – No, but the Society keeps its eye out and offers assistance where needed.

Appel - Moves to recommend to the Illinois Association of Historic Preservation that the nomination be approve based on the findings of appropriateness for Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places. **Stock** – Seconds and the vote is unanimous.

6. Study Session.

7. Notification of Plan Commission and City Council Action.

8. Correspondence/Announcements.

Appel – Distributes three publications that she obtained from the Historic Preservation Planning Department in Milwaukee, WI. The publications were called Living With History – A Guide to the Preservation Standards for Historically Designated Houses in Milwaukee; Good For Business – A Guide for Rehabilitating the Exteriors of Older Commercial Buildings; and As Good As New – A Guide for Rehabilitating the Exterior of Your Old Milwaukee Home. She asks that copies of these documents be acquired for the City to have on hand.

Wacholtz – Informs the Commission that the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council will be meeting in Urbana on September 9 at 10:00 a.m. in the Lewis Auditorium of the Urbana Free Library. The Urbana Historic Preservation Commission and Preservation and Conservation Association are sponsoring a reception prior to that on Thursday evening, September 8, at the Cinema Art Gallery.

The Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions is having its fall annual meeting and commission's workshops on October 29 in Springfield. The meeting will include a brunch; a tour of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library; and several forums related to preservation topics and how to make commissions work better. David Arbergast of Iowa City will be speaking and conducting some seminars. Contact the Illinois Historic Preservation Commission Association for further details.

9. Audience Participation.

10. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.



Planning Department 102 N. Neil Street Champaign, IL 61820 217-403-8800 www.ci.champaign.il.us

September 2, 2005

Tracey A. Sculle
Survey & National Register Coordinator
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois
62701-1507

Dear Ms. Scully:

I am happy to report to you that the Champaign Historic Preservation Commission has reviewed and recommended favorably on two cases forwarded to us by your agency for local review.

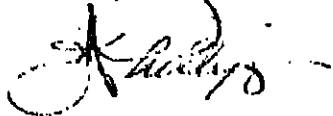
On August 4, 2005, they reviewed the application for 508 E. Armory, AΦ Sorority, BA Chapter, and found that it qualified under Criteria A & C.

On September 1, 2005, they reviewed 1006 So 6th Street, and found that it qualified under Criteria C.

We will bring fuller documentation to your scheduled meeting in Urbana on September 8, 2005, but because of the short turnaround time we are faxing this notice to you for your information.

The Champaign Historic Preservation Commission recommends that the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency forward these two Nominations for placement on the National Register of Historic Places to the United States Department of the Interior with recommendations for approval.

Sincerely,



Kevin Phillips
Zoning Administrator
Kevin.Phillips@ci.champaign.il.us



**Illinois Historic
Preservation Agency**

1 Old State Capitol Plaza • Springfield, Illinois 62701-1507 • Teletypewriter Only (217) 524-7128

Voice (217) 782-4836

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Gerald Schweighart, City of Champaign
Kevin Phillips, Champaign Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Tracey A. Sculle, Survey and National Register Coordinator-TAS

DATE: June 9, 2005

SUBJECT: Preliminary Opinion on the Alpha Phi Fraternity House-Beta Alpha Chapter
508 East Armory Avenue, Champaign, Illinois

It is my opinion that Alpha Phi Fraternity House-Beta Alpha Chapter in Champaign is locally significant under Criterion A for educational history and Criterion C for architecture for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This fraternity is nominated under the Fraternity and Sorority Houses at the Urbana-Champaign Campus of the University of Illinois Multiple Property Submission, which was accepted by the National Park Service in 1989. In 1923, Alpha Phi Fraternity-Beta Alpha Chapter purchased an existing Tudor Revival house located at 508 East Armory Avenue. In 1938, the house was substantially remodeled in the Georgian Revival style by Decatur architect Charles Harris. The building compares favorably with other fraternities and sororities in Champaign-Urbana designed in this style. This fraternity clearly reflects the growth and development of the Greek Letter Society houses and their association with the educational structure of the university. The period of significance of this property under Criterion A is from 1923, when the building was purchased by the Alpha Phi Fraternity, to 1955, the fifty year cutoff for significance to the National Register. Under Criterion C for architecture, the period of significance is 1938, when the house was remodeled in the Georgian Revival style. While there have been changes over time to the building, as the needs of the fraternity evolved, the exterior and interior retain integrity.

Tracey Sculle/HPA/ILL
11/28/2005 07:49 AM

To Terri Malawy/HPA/ILL@ILL, Amy Easton/HPA/ILL@ILL
cc
bcc
Subject National Register Weekly List 11/25/2005

Illinois properties. YEH!!!!

Tracey A. Sculle
Survey and National Register Coordinator
217-785-4324
217-524-7525 (fax)
tracey_sculle@ihpa.state.il.us

----- Forwarded by Tracey Sculle/HPA/ILL on 11/28/2005 07:47 AM -----



Edson_Beall@nps.gov
11/23/2005 10:50 AM

To: WASO_CR_NR-NHL@nps.gov, WASO_CR_HISTORY@nps.gov
cc: (bcc: Tracey Sculle/HPA/ILL)
Subject: National Register Weekly List 11/25/2005

November 25, 2005

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to send you the following announcements and actions on properties for the National Register of Historic Places. For further information contact Edson Beall via voice (202) 354-2255, E-mail: Edson_Beall@nps.gov

Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving to All

Our physical location address is:

National Park Service 2280
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW,
Washington D.C. 20005

Please have any Fed Ex, UPS packages sent to the above address. Please continue to use alternate carriers, as all mail delivered to us via United States Postal Service is irradiated and subsequently damaged.

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 11/14/05 THROUGH 11/18/05

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

* ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY,
Alpha Phi Fraternity House--Beta Alpha Chapter,
508 E. Armory Ave.,
Champaign, 05001250,
LISTED, 11/15/05
(Fraternity and Sorority Houses at the Urbana--Champaign Campus of the University of Illinois MPS)

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY,