



## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

*Planning Division*

### m e m o r a n d u m

**TO:** The Urbana Historic Preservation Commission

**FROM:** Rebecca Bird, Planner

**DATE:** May 1, 2009

**SUBJECT:** HP 2009-NRN-01: Request for review of National Register nomination for Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House at 1106 S. Lincoln Avenue

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### **Introduction**

Karen Lang Kummer and Christopher Enck of the Society for the Preservation of Greek Housing have nominated the Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House at 1106 S. Lincoln Avenue to the National Register of Historic Places. The City of Urbana, as a Certified Local Government, has been asked to review the application (attached) and comment on its eligibility for listing on the National Register.

### **Background**

The National Register is the nation's inventory of properties deemed worthy of preservation. It is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. The National Register is maintained by the National Park Service. In Illinois, it is administered by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA).

The National Register was developed to recognize historic places and those who contributed to our country's heritage. These properties—whether districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects—are architecturally or archeologically significant, or historically significant for their associations with important persons or events. The National Register is designed to include properties of importance in every locality, not just great national landmarks. A general store, a community's park, a main street, or the remains of a prehistoric Indian village may be just as eligible for inclusion in the National Register as Independence Hall or Gettysburg Battlefield.

The *National Historic Preservation Act, as amended*, gives Certified Local Governments (CLG) a special role in reviewing and commenting on National Register nominations. If a nominated property lies within a CLG municipality, the local historic preservation commission is asked to evaluate the property and make a recommendation concerning its eligibility for the National Register to the State Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

## Discussion

This nomination is part of a Multiple Property Listing (MPL) for fraternity and sorority houses at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. A multiple property listing is used to nominate a group of properties for National Register listing based on a common theme. The MPL document contains information common to the properties and gives a standard for the inclusion of properties within the listing. Individual properties within the MPL are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There are currently 15 properties listed on the National Register as part of the fraternity and sorority houses MPL, including five in Urbana: 1102 S. Lincoln Avenue, 715 W. Michigan Avenue, 1110 and 1202 W. Nevada Street, and 706 W. Ohio Street.

According to Andrew Heckenkamp, the National Register Coordinator for Illinois, the property meets the requirements set forth in *the Fraternity and Sorority Houses at the Urbana-Champaign Campus of the University of Illinois Multiple Property Document*. Specifically, the property meets Criterion A for its association with education and Criterion C for its architecture. For further information on the building's significance, see pages 13 – 33 of the nomination application.

The Urbana Historic Preservation Commission and Mayor have the opportunity to review this application and comment on the eligibility of the Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House for the National Register. The Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council (ISHAC) will consider this nomination at their June 12, 2009 meeting in Springfield. Comments must be submitted prior to the IHSAC meeting.

## Staff Recommendation

City staff recommends that the Historic Preservation Commission **APPROVE** the nomination of the Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House at 1106 S. Lincoln Avenue in its entirety.

Attachments: NR Nomination Application for Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House

cc: Karen Kummer, 1104 Devonshire Drive, Champaign IL 61821

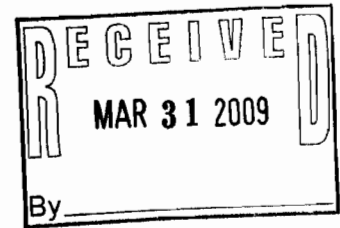


**Illinois Historic  
Preservation Agency**

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March 27, 2009

Name of Place: Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House  
1106 South Lincoln Avenue  
Urbana, Illinois



Rebecca Bird  
Urbana Preservation Commission  
400 South Vine Street  
Urbana, IL 61801

Dear Ms. Bird:

Enclosed herewith please find the National Register nomination and the preliminary opinion by the State Historic Preservation Office for the place referenced above. This nomination satisfied the National Register standards for documentation. Before the nomination is presented to the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council (IHSAC), however, you as a Certified Local Government have an opportunity to review, comment, and solicit public remarks on the nomination as provided by 36 CFR, Part 61.

By these same regulations, you have the opportunity to advise why the subject place does or does not satisfy the National Register criteria and explain the reasons for the advice. This written recommendation and that of the chief elected official must be received in this office by **May 13, 2009** or the nomination will automatically be placed on the IHSAC agenda for the June 12, 2009 meeting in Springfield. Your comments are welcome and a copy of your written remarks will be furnished to the IHSAC with the nomination.

Of course, let me know if you have any questions. We look forward to your continued cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Andrew Heckenkamp  
National Register Coordinator  
217.785.4324

Enclosure  
Certified Local Gov. Mayor-CLG



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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Rebecca Bird, Planning  
Urbana Preservation Commission

Mayor Laurel Lunt Prussing  
City of Urbana

FROM: Andrew Heckenkamp, National Register Coordinator

DATE: March 27, 2009

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

In accordance with the City of Urbana's role as a Certified Local Government, I have enclosed a draft of the Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House National Register Nomination form for your review and comment. It is my intention to place this property on the June 12, 2009 agenda of the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council for their consideration:

The staff opinion for this property is positive. I believe that the property meets the requirements set forth in *the Fraternity and Sorority Houses at the Urbana-Champaign Campus of the University of Illinois* Multiple Property Document. It specifically meets Criterion A for its association with education and Criterion C for its architecture.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to call me at 217/785-4324, or by e-mail at [andrew.heckenkamp@illinois.gov](mailto:andrew.heckenkamp@illinois.gov).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 1106 South Lincoln Avenue [NA] not for publication

city or town Urbana [ ] vicinity

state Illinois code IL county Champaign code 019 zip code 61801

### 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 [ ].)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 Gamma Delta Fraternity House Champaign County, Illinois

Name of Property

County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [X] private
[ ] public-local
[ ] public-State
[ ] public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- [X] 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)

French Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Concrete Brick; Brick

roof Slate/Asphalt Shingle

other

Narrative Description

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

Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House      Champaign County, Illinois

Name of Property

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.

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Architecture

#### Periods of Significance

1928-1959

#### Significant Dates

1928

#### Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

George Ramey, architect

Walter J. Villard, contractor

Donald Laz, architect

Barber & DeAtley, contractors

### 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

# \_\_\_\_\_

#### 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, University of Illinois





**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 7 Page 1

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### **Narrative Description**

The Alpha Gamma Delta fraternity<sup>1</sup> house was built for the Sigma Chapter on land purchased in 1927 to replace the chapter's previous residence. Located immediately to the east of the campus of the University of Illinois, the chapter house is in the center of the 1100 block of South Lincoln Avenue. Its main facade faces west onto Lincoln Avenue, the street that marks the eastern border of the university campus. The area consists of a number of other Greek chapter houses, mid-sized apartment buildings, and single-family residences. Ohio Street is to the north of the block and Indiana Avenue to the south. To the immediate north of the Alpha Gamma Delta chapter house is the National Register listed (2004) Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority house, designed by the Chicago architectural firm, Howard Van Doren Shaw Associates, in a compatible architectural style. To the south of the chapter house is a three-and-one-half story circa 1940s red brick apartment building that occupies the southern corner of Lincoln and Indiana streets. To the east of the house are the back yards of the 4-H House and a bungalow at 808 West Indiana. Across Lincoln Avenue, to the west, is the University of Illinois McKinley Hospital, now known as the McKinley Health Center. The university's Lincoln Avenue Residence Hall is located to the north of the health center.

### **Exterior**

The Alpha Gamma Delta fraternity house is a three-story T-shaped building with steeply pitched hip roofs, that slightly flare, and wide overhanging boxed eaves. Exterior walls are gray taupe concrete bricks laid in a six course Flemish stretcher bond above a poured concrete foundation. The third story of the rear wing has half-timbering, as does the tower and entryway. Gray slate covers the steep hip roof on the primary facades with replacement gray asphalt architectural shingles on the secondary facades. The house has original steel casement windows with metal lintels and either stone or steeply canted brick sills; a few windows have been replaced on the rear facade. A circular stair tower and gabled entry porch project from the front facade and decorative chimneys rise above the roof on the north and south ends. The original roughly L-shaped plan was altered with the 1965 additions to the east and west which form the current T-shaped plan. The additions are compatible with the original building in design and materials.

The main (west) L-shaped facade is divided into three parts, differentiated by sections of the hip roof. The dominant central portion has the highest roof and backs the circular stair tower and entry porch. Lower roofs and different fenestration distinguish the original north wing and southwest addition from the central portion. One approaches the house from a short flight of concrete stairs onto a two-level concrete patio/terrace that connects the main entrance to French doors that open off of both the living room (north) and dining room (southwest). A metal railing extends along the west side of the terrace.

The concrete patio/terrace leads to the projecting open entry porch, which, along with the circular stair tower, dominates the west facade of the chapter house. The porch protrudes from the main wall plane of the tower's north side. Entry is through a wood Tudor arch over which is a half-timbered gable. The interior of this porch has half-timbering on its south side and a rectangular opening on the north wall above a wood bench. Randomly laid slates cover the gable roof and

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 7 Page 2

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drainage is accommodated by a modern gutter and downspout on the north and an original copper downspout and decorative scupper to the south of the main entrance. A Tudor-arched door leads into the house and has a one-light/screen-over-"X"-paneled storm door. The circular stair tower rises above the roofline of the main hip and has half-timbering below its conical slate roof with flared eaves. Three windows light the tower on its lowest at-grade level: paired central four-light steel casements flanked by single four-light casements. These openings have painted rough wood lintels, which are not found elsewhere on the building. Above, four openings, each with paired four-light casements, follow the rising curve of the stairs on the interior. The attic half-timbering is punctured by three single casement windows (three-light, six-light, three-light).

There are two bays to the north and one to the south of the tower. The porch is in the first bay to the north followed by a large window opening into the "bell" room. This opening has a triple window group consisting of eight-light casements flanking an eight-light fixed sash; all three sash have four-light transoms. Above this window group and the porch are two openings with paired eight-light casements with wood louvered blinds. These windows repeat on the third story, but extend slightly above the eaves as round-arch wall dormers. The bay to the south of the tower has paired eight-light casements and a single raised three-light casement that serves the guest bathroom on the main level. Above, the second story has a similar triple window group without transoms, while the third story windows are a smaller triple window group with six-light casements.

The north section of the main facade is recessed slightly from the central mass. Differentiating the first floor is a slightly recessed triple round-arch stucco arcade accented by brick quoins. A simple stone modillion block cornice tops the upper portion of the arcade. Each opening contains French doors with transoms and is unornamented except for a projecting stone keystone. The original wood French doors have four lights over a lower recessed panel. Above the doors are round-arched fanlights with wood mullions. The doors open onto a narrow concrete "balcony" with metal railing. The second and third stories of this section have three openings facing Lincoln Avenue. On the second story is a single eight-light casement flanked by paired casements. The third story is reversed with two single casements flanking paired center casements. A limestone stringcourse continues the line of the third-story window sills and visually separates the second and third stories. Decorative brick panels in a header "X" pattern flank the windows. Above the third floor windows is a flared pent roof set on simple wood brackets.

The remaining section of the west facade consists of the 1965 addition, which extends west toward Lincoln Avenue. Originally, this area projected only slightly, but the addition extended the wing nearly to the sidewalk. The addition changed the relatively flat main facade into an L-shaped composition terminating the terrace. On the first story is the dining room that has a triple round-arch stucco arcade similar to that of the north living room; however, it lacks the cornice and keystones. Instead, the upper stories slightly overhang the first story. Centered on the second story is a triple eight-light casement window group. The third story is similar, but its window group extends above the eave as a short wall dormer with a copper shed roof. A stone sill/stringcourse continues across the elevation below the third-story window. Turning the corner, the street elevation (west) of this section has the upper two stories overhanging the blind six-course Flemish stretcher bond brick wall of the first story. The metal railing of the patio/terrace extends in front of this wing where it is mounted to the surface of the wall. Two symmetrically placed

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 7 Page 3

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paired eight-light casement windows puncture the wall on the second story, while similar windows are above as short wall dormers with a common copper shed roof. Between the dormers is smooth stucco in place of the decorative brickwork of the north wing. Below the dormers, the stone sill/stringcourse continues; centered below the stringcourse is a stone plaque with the fraternity's crest and date, "1927."

In a deliberate mirroring of the Kappa Kappa Gamma chapter house to the north, the service functions of the Alpha Gamma Delta house are grouped on the south side along a driveway between the house and neighboring apartment building. Because of the close proximity to the neighboring structure, the south side of the house is barely visible from Lincoln Avenue. This elevation is flat and can be divided into three sections with the original house in the center and the additions extending to the east and west. Beginning at the west end (addition), the slight overhang between the first and upper stories repeats. There is a single opening in the center of the addition consisting of a triple eight-light window group with four-light transoms on the first story. Like the north facade, the second and third stories have center paired eight-light casements; those on the third story extend as a wall dormer with a shed roof. The addition is defined by a vertical joint in the brick wall and the junction of the slate/asphalt shingle roof.

The original section of this elevation has two similar eight-light triple window groups with four-light transoms to the west and two sets of paired four-over-four-light double-hung windows to the east. Below the double-hung windows are below-grade concrete basement steps with a concrete retaining wall with metal railing. At the base of the stairs is a solid metal door (facing south) and a narrow rectangular vent is near the top of the stairs. Below the western triple window groups are rectangular ventilation openings. To the east of the stairs is a projecting one-story, flat roof service wing, which terminated the original house. It has a six-light-over-one panel door (one-light-over-two-panel storm door) facing west and small paired six-light casements centered in the south and east elevations. Above is a flat stone stringcourse/cornice, brick parapet, and stone coping. Beginning at the west end of the original house's second story are paired eight-light casements, a raised six-light casement, a triple window casement group, a raised six-light casement, and four sets of paired eight-light casements, the last two sets are over the projecting service wing. On the third story are paired six-light casements followed by three sets of triple six-light casement window groups. All four window groups extend as short wall dormers. Between the east two groups is a one-light eyebrow dormer set into the roof slope. Following to the east, the very tall boiler chimney is capped by a molded stone stringcourse, rebuilt brick top, and molded cornice. To the east of the chimney is a paired eight-light casement adjacent to the west edge of a half-timbered/stucco third-story section. A stone stringcourse/continuous sill runs below the third-story windows from the west corner to terminate at the half-timbering. The half-timbering and stucco project slightly on wood corbels; they extend across the remainder of the original house and the east end addition. Third story openings in the half-timbering consist of paired eight-light casements flanking a solid metal emergency exit door, a set of central paired eight-light casements, and a second solid metal emergency exit door near the east end. Below, the first-story of the addition has a six-light casement to the west and a triple six-light casement window group to the east. On the second story are paired eight-light (west) and triple eight-light (east) window groups. In front of these windows are wood emergency stairs that rise to a third story platform that extends across the center three-quarters of the half-timbered section.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 7 Page 4

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On the rear (east) elevation of the house, the addition extends the original L-plan to the east and encloses a courtyard that now serves as a parking lot. Asphalt shingles cover the roofs of the secondary elevations and the third story of the east addition continues the half-timbering and stucco of the south elevation. The southeast leg of the "L" extends east to nearly the rear property line. Paired six-light casements are centered in this leg's east facing elevation, while the second story is blind. Above, in the third-story half-timbering, are two triple eight-light window groups. Turning the corner, the north elevation of this leg shows the visible line in the masonry where the addition was constructed. On this side, the addition has only a large metal kitchen exhaust fan on the blind first story near the junction with the original house. The first story of the original house portion has a modern steel fire-rated door with flanking single (west) and double (east) eight-light casements. On the second story, the addition has a triple eight-light window group to the east and paired casements to the west. The original house has a single eight-light casement in the reentrant corner, while the original east double casement opening is infilled with brick. Half timbering extends along the third story of both the house and the addition; this story has a triple window group at the east end, a central paired window group, and a band of three paired windows in the west reentrant corner.

The north leg of the "L"-plan rear elevation has a projecting three-story, flat roof square tower in the reentrant angle, which extends to the north as a one-story flat-roofed projection. At the top of the tower is a stone stringcourse/cornice, brick parapet, and stone coping, similar to the south elevation's small service wing; here, the parapet extends above the adjacent hip roofs' eave line. The first story of the tower has paired French doors similar to those on the main facade but with square four-light transoms. These doors are flanked by four-light sidelights over solid panels and two-light transoms. This same entryway is repeated in the projecting bay to the north, which also has a triple eight-light casement group with four-light transoms at its north end. In front of these openings is an added below-grade basement emergency exit with concrete steps, metal railing, and an east facing solid metal door. Facing north, the projection has a single eight-light casement with four-light transom. The second and third stories of the tower have paired frosted-glass one-light replacement casements flanking a similar single casement. On the one-story projection's roof is a terrace enclosed by a metal railing that connects with a wood fire escape to the north. The terrace is accessed by an off-center modern steel fire-rated exit door, which is flanked by adjacent paired eight-light casements. An additional set of paired eight-light casements is further to the north, and a pent roof on brackets shelters these four terrace openings. Three single symmetrically-placed eight-light casements continue to the north on the second story, and are covered by the exterior fire escape. Above the pent roof, on the third story, are two triple eight-light casement groups with a band of three paired casements to the north. However, the southernmost of these casements was replaced with a steel fire-rated door to access the fire escape. To the north of the projection, the remainder of the east elevation's first story has three round-arched header brick openings into the living room. These are identical to the main facade in size and spacing but are set within brick arches with visible limestone keystones, rather than a stucco arcade. Here there is a center French door with transom and flanking paired wood four-light casements with transoms and brick spandrel panels. A one-light eyebrow dormer is centered in the east slope.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 7 Page 5

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The far north end of the Alpha Gamma Delta house faces the Kappa Kappa Gamma house with a driveway accessing the rear parking lot and separating the two chapter houses. This elevation is symmetrical about a tall brick exterior chimney that extends above the height of the hip roof. The chimney has shallow shoulders of gray slate and is capped by a molded stone stringcourse, rebuilt brick top, and molded cornice. A single eight-light casement punctures the chimney at the second floor. A pair of decorative chimney pots tops the stack with a modern metal pot set between the two. Flanking the chimney on the first story are stucco and quoined recesses similar to the stucco arcade of the west facade. Here, however, the recesses have paired wood four-light casements with round-arch fanlights/transoms and flush wood paneled spandrels. Above the arched openings are paired eight-light casements, while the third story has triple casement groups set closer to the chimney as wall dormers with shed roofs. The sill/stringcourse returns along this elevation and continues along the east side to terminate at the tower.

There is minimal landscaping around the Alpha Gamma Delta chapter house. The main elevation is dominated by a large two-level scored concrete terrace that is accessed via two sets of concrete stairs. One set is off-center to the north, while the second set is at the north end, adjacent to the driveway. Between the terrace levels are full-length concrete steps (four). A narrow planting bed with a low stone retaining wall runs in front of the terrace and the west elevation of the addition. Centered in this planting bed is a modern brick and stone sign engraved with "Alpha Gamma Delta" and usable as a time capsule. At the north and south ends of the lot are long driveways. The north drive separates the Alpha Gamma Delta lot from Kappa Kappa Gamma's lot and continues to the rear parking area. On the south, the drive extends east to terminate near the basement steps; however, a shallow concrete ramp continues east up to the service entrance and then slopes down to the east end of the lot. A concrete wall/curb separates this drive from the apartment building's lot to the south. The rear of the property is sheltered by the chapter houses's rear L-plan and is paved as a parking area. Concrete sidewalks are adjacent to the building's north leg, with a ramp to the reentrant corner's service entry. (Originally this area was a landscaped sunken garden with terrace that connected with the Kappa Kappa Gamma's garden to the north.)

### **Interior**

The main entrance to the Alpha Gamma Delta chapter house is through the covered porch on the west side of the building. A Tudor-arched screened door opens onto the porch, while the historic main entry door opens to the interior. The upper portion of this door is divided into thirds with a brass knocker and a small center diamond-shaped sash, while the lower section is a square divided by a raised "X" into four recessed triangular panels. The small foyer is ornamented with trim around the front door and has simple wood baseboards. There is a large square plaster opening from the east side of the foyer into the main gallery or reception hall. Off the foyer are plaster Tudor arches that lead to a "bell room" (north) and the stair hall (south).

To the north is the "bell room" originally intended for visitors to the house. The red square clay tile flooring of the foyer continues into this room. There is a picture rail/narrow cornice, simple trim of dark-stained oak around the window opening, and narrow wood baseboards; similar trim is used throughout the house. A round-arch raised opening is centered in the east wall and

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 7 Page 6

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connects with the gallery. To the south of the foyer is the main staircase, which rises the entire height of the house through the circular tower; it is a dogleg arrangement with landings midway between each level. The staircase's narrow handrail, treads, and risers are oak with a carpet overlay. Running the length of the staircase, the decorative railing is composed of wrought iron spindles, which alternate in pairs of straight and twisted metal; the newel "posts" are larger versions of the twisted spindles. To the south of the stairs is a modern handicap-accessible bathroom with an inner stall area (west) and an outer washroom; the room maintains its original oak door and trim and continues the vestibule tile.

The gallery provides circulation for all of the public rooms of the first story. It is entered directly from either the foyer or the stair hall through simple square plaster openings. The living room is to the north, the dining room is to the south, and on the east side are a small card room and a trophy room along with access to the service areas. Carpeting covers the floor of the gallery and the ceiling is framed by elaborate cast-plaster ornament consisting of two straight fillet bands with intermediate (thirds) groupings of acanthus leaf cartouches. In the center of the room is an eight-pointed plaster ceiling medallion consisting of floral elements surrounding a scalloped shell; each corner is also decorated with a foliated cartouche. In the southwest corner of the gallery, adjacent to the dining room, is a small closet with a round-arch three-paneled door. This closet contained the bell call system that announced visitors to the house's residents.

The dining room is located at the south end of the hall and is entered through two sets of three-panel bifold oak doors. This room was extended to the west with the construction of the 1965 addition. The division point between the original and added section of the room is visible where structural pilasters divide the space. The floor is oak and the ceiling is covered with acoustical tile. A chair rail divides the wallpaper covered upper portion of the walls from a painted dado. The trim around the windows and north side French doors (which open onto the terrace) is of dark-stained oak and is simple in design, as are the baseboards. At the east end of the room, the kitchen and service areas are accessed through a pair of original oak swinging doors each with two raised panels and a diamond-paned leaded-glass window with the fraternity's crest.

The southeast corner of the first story is devoted to service areas. Directly off the dining room is a "butler's" pantry and a service hall that accesses the trophy room, the rear service stairs and the rear service door off the parking lot. A large L-shaped kitchen occupies the remainder of the space and has modern stainless-steel appointments. It is divided into a dish washing area, kitchen, break room with toilet, pantry, refrigerator room, and storage. The projecting one-story south service porch is centered off the kitchen. In its east half is the chapter house's original wood walk-in cooler; opposite is the kitchen service door.

Card and trophy rooms are located along the east side of the main reception hall. These spaces are smaller in scale than the other public rooms and are treated with a greater amount of detail. The trophy room is the southern of the two. It has a three-panel door on its south wall that leads to the service hallway, while a square arched opening on the west enters the gallery and a similar arched opening connects with the card room. Built-in wood trophy cases are to either side of the service door: the upper portions have glass doors, while the lower sections are open two-shelf units. French doors with sidelights fill the east wall. In the card room there is a great deal of light



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 7 Page 7

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from the large east windows and French doors as well as from a north casement window. This openness continues on the room's west wall, which has a square opening to the gallery and a raised round-arched opening that mirrors the opening of the "bell room." A north round-arched opening joins the card room with the adjacent living room. Both the card and trophy rooms are carpeted and have elaborate wood crown moldings.

The elegant living room is located at the north end of the house and is accessed through a large opening off the gallery that is identical in size to that of the dining room on the south, but is without doors. Dominating the space is the projecting fireplace, which is on axis with the gallery. The stone fireplace has paneled pilasters with acanthus leaf corbels, which support a long paneled frieze and molded cornice. Above is a large French Revival plaster hood with an elegant center stone plaque representing the fraternity's crest; below is a stone hearth. A large decorative metal hood covers the firebox below the plain architrave. Eight round-arch openings with fanlights light the room. Two openings with casements flank the fireplace on the north wall. The openings on the west wall extend to the floor as French doors and open to the terrace "balcony." A French door is repeated in the center of the east wall, but is flanked by round-arch casement windows. Mirroring the round-arch opening of the southeast card room is a blind round arch in the southwest corner. The carpet of the surrounding rooms extends into the living room. Its oak baseboards and window trim are dark stained, like that of the other public rooms, but the picture rail near the ceiling is painted white.

The tower staircase, as well as the rear service stairs, connects all occupied levels including the basement; however, the tower stairs continue to the attic. On the tower stairs landing halfway to the basement is a built-in bench set below three casements. The bench follows the curve of the tower and has an upholstered surface atop turned oak legs. At the base of the main stairs is a small door to a storage closet below the landing. The basement contains a central television lounge, a chapter room/computer room to the north, a large laundry room in the southwest corner, and service and mechanical areas in the southeast corner. Most of these spaces have below-grade openings and/or emergency egress doors. The area below the living room is on a crawl space, while both additions were built on reinforced concrete slabs on grade. These basement secondary spaces are of newer construction and do not contain historically significant materials or elements except for three-panel wood doors. However, the original enclosed rear service stairway is oak with dark stain and is constructed of simple treads and risers with plain handrails.

On the second and third stories are multiple-occupancy study rooms arranged around a double-loaded "T"-shaped corridor, slightly canted in the west addition. These rooms are used for studying and storage of clothing and personal property. Two large dormitories on the third floor provide sleeping space for the chapter house. Also on the second and third stories are modern communal toilet and shower rooms and ironing rooms. The director/housemother's two-room suite is located on the second floor at the top of the main stairs; her living room is in the original house with her bedroom in the addition. The rear "service" stairs is located in the northeast exterior reentrant corner and winds around two original dumb waiters. Both staircases and corridors are equipped with fire doors.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 7 Page 8

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The historic study rooms generally have oak flooring; however, some rooms are carpeted, while most of the rooms in the additions have herringbone parquet flooring. Walls and ceilings in the historic rooms are plaster with picture rails near the ceiling and simple oak baseboards at the floor. Casement window trim is simple, yet well constructed of oak. Some of the additions' rooms have exposed concrete-masonry unit walls and ceilings of acoustical tile. The trim in these rooms is simpler than the older spaces but is still of dark-stained oak. Original oak room and closet doors are extant and have two-long-panels of solid-core construction with a dark finish. The brass door hardware is also original. Addition doors are plain.

Hallways are carpeted and have dropped acoustical tile ceilings. Baseboards are simple undecorated oak trim, while doorway surrounds are more detailed with a simple carved profile and dark finish. Storage closets in the corridors have the same oak two-panel doors as the sleeping rooms. Two dumb waiters located near the rear stairs have small single-panel oak doors that match the larger doors. The interiors of these chutes are lined with zinc-coated steel and are closed for fire code reasons; however, the spaces are used as raceways for technological and mechanical equipment.

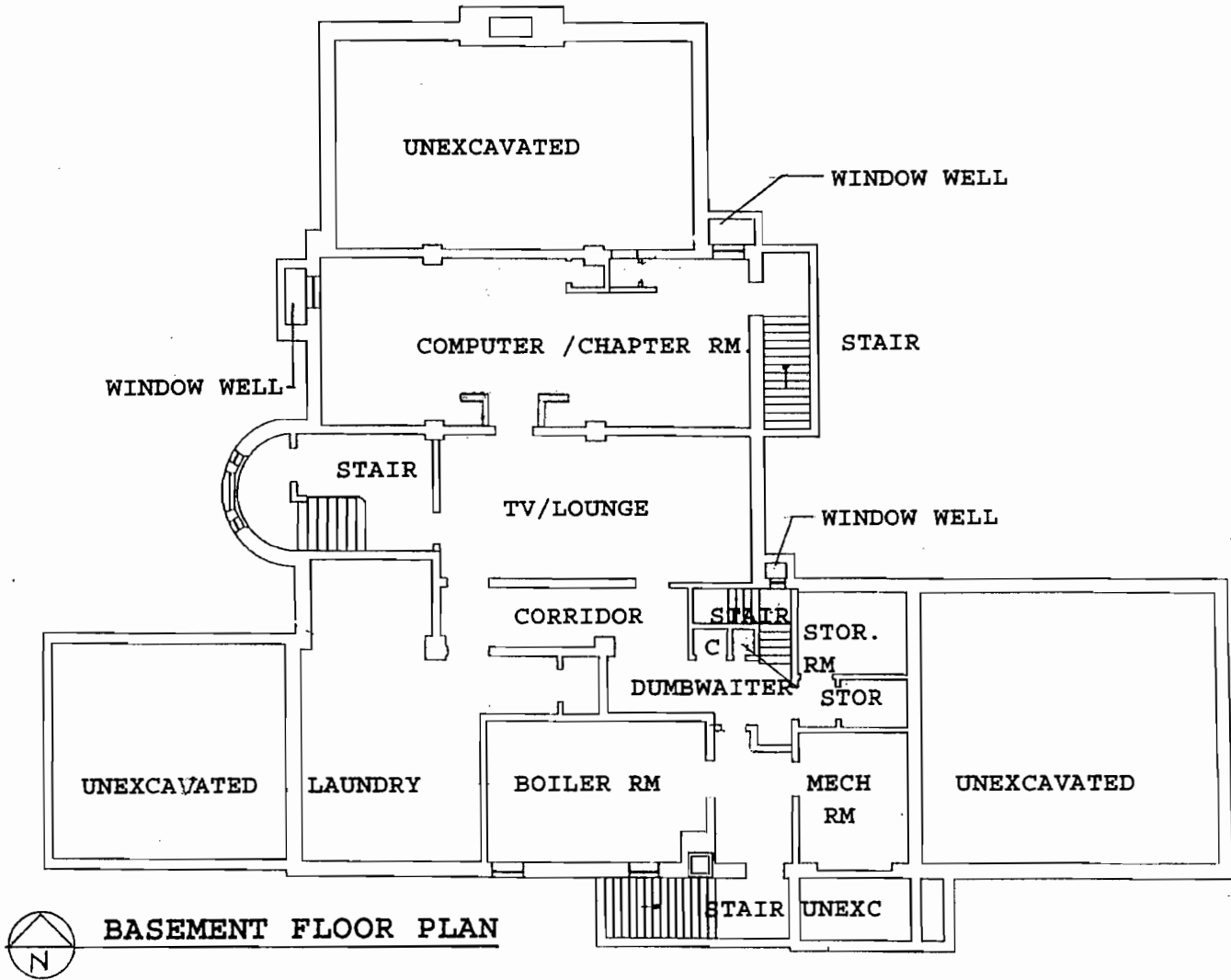
Dormitory spaces are located on the third story at the north and east ends of the building. These large rooms contain rows of bunk beds representative of these spaces' sole use as sleeping rooms. The north dormitory has a wood floor and multiple casement windows, as well as an emergency exit on the east side. A larger dormitory is located on the southeast corner and is divided into two parts: the original dormitory to the west and an addition on the east. The half timbering on what was once the east exterior wall is still visible in the addition, but is painted white. The flooring in this large space is linoleum over original wood flooring. The ceilings of both sections are angled at the top, following the hip roof slope. Casement windows illuminate the space and two emergency exits are on the south elevation. Although unfinished and used only for storage, the attic space extends the length of the original house. It is one large room with a wood floor; the attic and tower roof framing systems are visible. There are two small eyebrow dormers.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

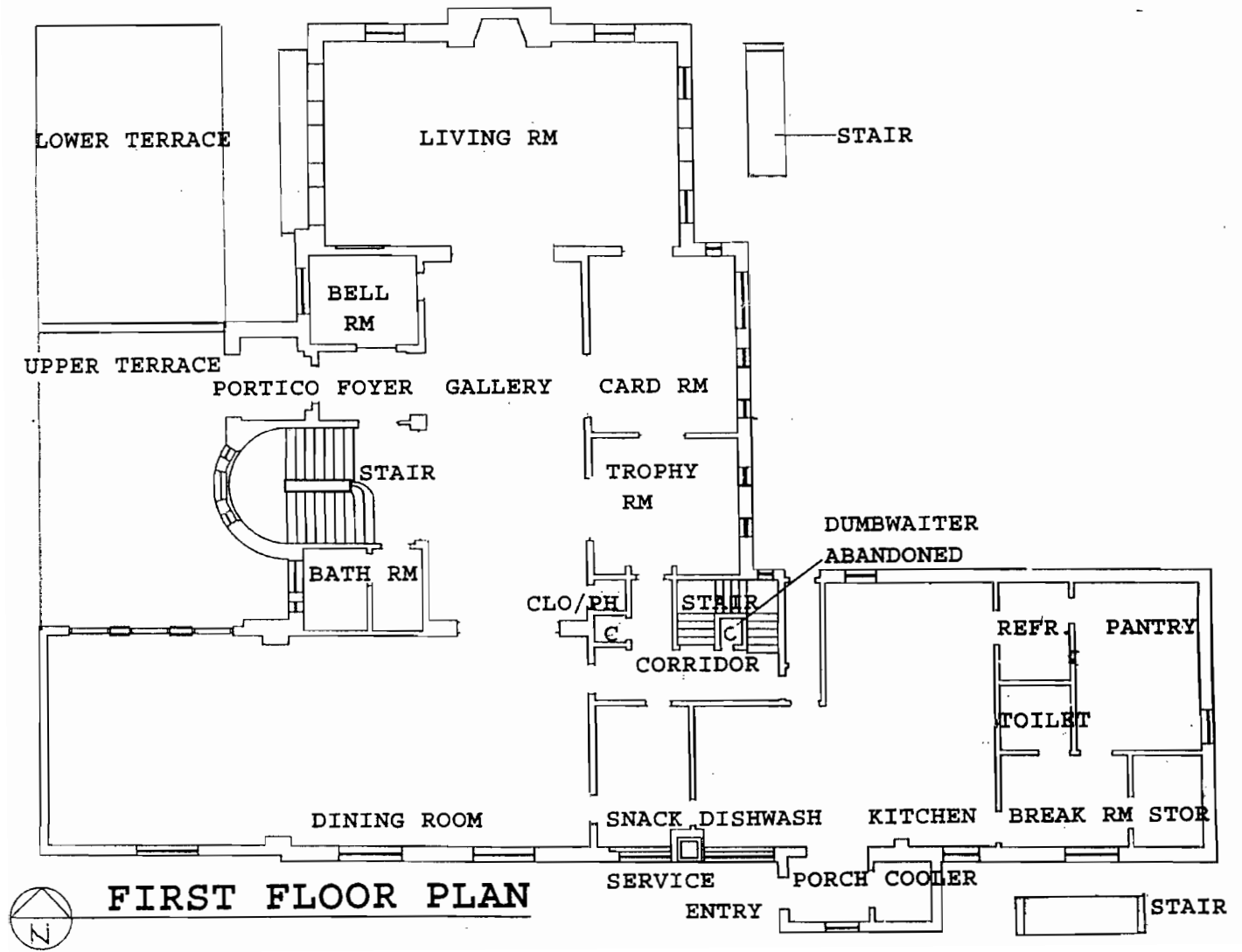
Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois  
Section number 7 Page 9



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

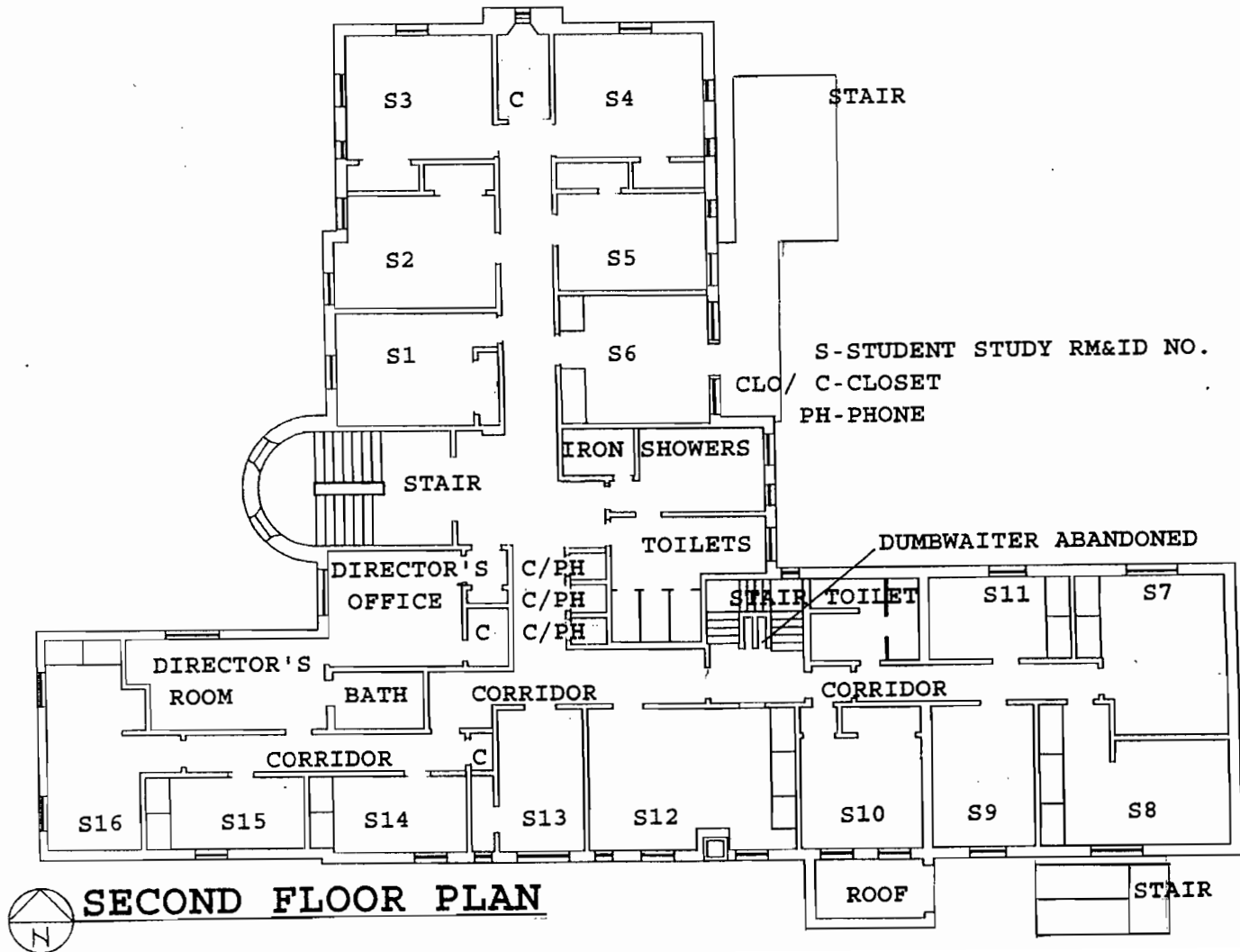
Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois  
Section number 7 Page 10



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois  
Section number 7 Page 11





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois  
Section number 8 Page 13

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**Narrative Statement of Significance**

The locally significant Alpha Gamma Delta 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 Gamma Delta Fraternity House, reflect a way of living which was an important supplementary component of the higher education process during the overall period of significance for the property type (1871-1940). The period of significance for the Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, 1928-1959, reflects the date of the chapter's occupation of 1106 South Lincoln Avenue 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 French Eclectic architectural style as interpreted by local architect George Ramey. Characteristics of this style as shown on the concrete brick Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House include its steeply pitched slate roof, round conical stair tower, casement windows, French doors, and arched openings. The period of significance is 1928, the year the house was built.

**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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

Construction of University of Illinois Greek Letter Society dwellings have been documented in two phases: 1906 to 1917 and following World War I to 1940. With at least 27 chapter houses being built between 1926 and 1930, the late 1920s is considered the peak construction period.<sup>4</sup> Most houses were designed in the popular period revival styles of the time and were outfitted in equally elegant interior furnishings. It was thought that exposing students to "tasteful surroundings in the parlors and living rooms of their chapter houses could not but enhance their education and encourage dignified behavior."<sup>5</sup> Through such well-designed accommodations the mission of the

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 8 Page 14

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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 Gamma Delta, Sigma Chapter<sup>6</sup>

Alpha Gamma Delta, a fraternal organization for women (“sorority”), was founded at Syracuse University in 1904. At the time of its founding, there were sixteen “national” fraternities for women, although only twelve of them had more than one chapter. Georgia Dickover, one of the undergraduate founders of Alpha Gamma Delta and later a historian of the organization, noted an increase in fraternity formation – for both men and women – in the early years of the twentieth century, and attributed this minor explosion to a corresponding increase in college and university enrollment. At Syracuse, as at other institutions of higher learning, young people gathered to be educated not only intellectually but also socially. Social and honorary fraternities played an integral role in the collegiate experience, and higher enrollments brought the need for even more organizations designed to present students with a set of appropriate peers and social activities. Alpha Gamma Delta’s founding helped to fulfill this need.

Along with Georgia Dickover, sisters Marguerite and Estelle Shepard, Jennie Clara Titus, Ethel Brown, Grace Mosher, Edith MacConnell, Mary Louise Snider, Georgia Otis Chipman, Emily Butterfield, and Flora Knight Mayer are hailed as the founders of Alpha Gamma Delta, and indeed these young women were the moving force behind the birth of the society. The initial suggestion to form a new fraternity for women at Syracuse, however, came from Dr. Wellesley Perry Coddington, head of the department of philosophy and psychology. Dr. Coddington, a native New Yorker and a graduate of Wesleyan University, was a “fraternity man” himself – he was involved in Eclectic Fraternity, Phi Nu Theta, and Phi Beta Kappa as a student. He was also one of the first five faculty members of Syracuse when it was founded in 1871, and seems to have taken a keen interest in both the intellectual and social development of its students, both men and women. Coddington’s own college experience led him to look very favorably on fraternities in particular, and Georgia Dickover reported that he encouraged many Syracuse students to take the initiative to form new societies. By 1900 there were seven national fraternities for men and six for women on the Syracuse campus, but Coddington believed that the university’s steadily growing enrollment could support more. He worried especially that the six existing women’s fraternities could not absorb the rising women’s enrollment, and that many promising young women were being prevented from experiencing the attributes of fraternal life that he himself had so enjoyed.

Georgia Dickover soon had the opportunity to see Dr. Coddington’s encouragement at work first hand, when she was one of the first three undergraduate women to become involved in the effort to found a seventh women’s fraternity at Syracuse – the society which would eventually become Alpha Gamma Delta. Dr. Coddington first broached the subject in the spring of 1904 with Marguerite Shepard, a member of the class of 1905 who was not currently involved with a social fraternity. Marguerite responded hesitantly at first, but when her younger sister Estelle caught wind of Dr. Coddington’s proposal, she proved much more enthusiastic and recruited her close friend Dickover to the cause. Dr. Coddington suggested that they also invite one of his students,

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 8 Page 15

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Jennie Clara Titus, to attend planning meetings. Eventually this small group assembled for meetings in Coddington's home, and it was in his study that the purpose and spirit of Alpha Gamma Delta began to truly take shape.

The early meetings actually proved something of a shock to the undergraduate women who had been hand-picked by Dr. Coddington to undertake this project, because his vision of "the project" was more ambitious than they had originally guessed. Coddington's proposal to the Shepard sisters, Dickover, and Titus was certainly motivated primarily by his desire to provide Syracuse University women with additional outlets for camaraderie and social interaction, but he believed that their efforts could result in something much larger. As he told the women at the first meeting, he was confident that with much hard work and planning on their part, they could create a new *national* fraternity for women, not just a local organization confined to the Syracuse campus. Dickover's history of this period, written in the 1930s, continually references the apprehension with which she and the other founders received Coddington's suggestion, although the exact sources of their hesitancy are not entirely clear. There is some indication that Marguerite Shepard in particular feared that the competition among women's fraternities on the Syracuse campus was already too great to allow an "upstart" society to break into the social arena, and perhaps this difficulty at the immediate local level made the prospects for eventual national expansion and organization seem very slim indeed. Many years later, Shepard remarked, "Would any group of college girls today think they could successfully launch a new fraternity without a single party dress or a dance?" Whatever their reservations were, the founders were able to put them aside and set themselves to work under Dr. Coddington's direction.

In May 1904, three more women joined the founding group: Ethel Brown, Grace Mosher, and Edith MacConnell. The entire group continued to hold regular meetings in Dr. Coddington's home and hammered out such details as the fraternity motto, the colors (red, buff, and green), and the badge ("a monogram of the three letters with the Alpha chased and a little larger than the other letters, the Gamma plain, and the Delta set with half pearls").<sup>7</sup>

Despite their continuing hesitancy about the potential success of their endeavor, the women were "inspired with purpose, courage, and fraternity spirit enough to remove mountains if necessary," and their hard work came to fruition on May 30, 1904, which is recognized as the formal founding date of Alpha Gamma Delta. The meeting took place in Dr. Coddington's study, as had the previous ones, but at this special gathering the chapter constitution and by-laws were read and adopted, fraternity badges were first worn, and officers were elected for the coming year. Jennie Clara Titus was elected as the first president of the group. A brief note in the Syracuse *Daily Orange* announced Alpha Gamma Delta's founding to the university community shortly afterwards. Organizational meetings continued to be held in the fall of 1904, and Dr. Coddington remained closely involved with the new fraternity and its members, suggesting changes to the pin design and offering his wife and her friends as "patronesses" for the group. His most important contribution in this early stage, however, was his offer to write to friends and colleagues on other college and university campuses in an effort to interest them in supporting Alpha Gamma Delta's national expansion. One year later, Beta Chapter was founded at the University of Wisconsin, and Alpha Gamma Delta's expansion phase was launched. The first national convention was held at the Alpha Chapter house in Syracuse in 1907, and for the following two years the fraternity enjoyed a robust expansion, doubling both its chapter roll and its total membership. This

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 8 Page 16

---

expansion period culminated in Alpha Gamma Delta's admittance to the National Panhellenic Congress in 1909.

1917-1918: Delta Epsilon Phi to Alpha Gamma Delta

In February 1917, a conversation sparked by a piece of jewelry set in motion the process which would eventually lead to the founding of Sigma Chapter at the University of Illinois. Florence Downend, a sophomore music student, admired the pin worn by her classmate Marguerite Keck, who had recently transferred to the University of Illinois from Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington. Marguerite explained that the pin was a sign of her membership in Alpha Gamma Delta's Xi Chapter, and her ensuing conversation with her classmate convinced her that Florence "had the desire and spirit to start a new organization," so she encouraged her to gather other friends, recruit new ones, and begin the process of founding a new chapter for Alpha Gamma Delta. An initially small but enthusiastic group of women met at the home of Viña Freitag and discussed ideas and plans for the organization, where Florence Downend served as moderator and passed on the knowledge about general fraternity life that she had gained from her conversation with Marguerite Keck. An early member, Mabel Osburn, recalled that at this meeting, "the opportunity of such a sisterhood to provide better environment; to promote higher ideals to its members; to encourage higher scholastic standing; to encourage participation in college activities; and to educate socially was explained." Over the next several weeks more meetings were held at the homes of university women who were already friends of Florence Downend, Viña Freitag, and Mabel Osburn, but by the third meeting several "new girls" were invited to join the planning group, probably in order to gauge whether wider interest in the idea existed on the campus. This interest did in fact exist, and the planning process moved forward rapidly.

After several of these more informal meetings, the group began to meet more regularly in the Women's Building on campus, and Marguerite Keck explained the University's rules and regulations governing fraternities for both men and women. These meetings likely led in turn to an important meeting with Dean of Women Fanny Cook Gates to discuss the founding of a new local sorority, who responded by asserting that she was "heartily in favor of it" and "promised her support and influence." This support was essential to the success of the venture, because all student organizations had to eventually petition the University's Council of Administration in order to exist as recognized bodies. Even more importantly, the Council of Administration required that any group wishing to affiliate with a national fraternity had to exist as an unaffiliated "local" fraternity for a specified period of time before the University could allow affiliation. Since Marguerite Keck's ultimate goal for the group that she was shepherding was, most decidedly, eventual affiliation with Alpha Gamma Delta, it was essential for her friends to cultivate a positive relationship with Dean Gates, as well as with Dean of Men Thomas Arkle Clark, a champion of Greek life at the University.

A pivotal meeting was held on April 16, when fourteen women declared their intention to join the new group. Florence Downend was elected President, Viña Freitag was chosen as Recording Secretary, and Vallie Fallon served as the first Treasurer. At Marguerite Keck's suggestion, the group chose Delta Epsilon Phi as the name of the sisterhood, and they also called on her to design a pin, a small arrow with the letters ΔΕΦ superimposed on it. With these essentials settled, the first initiation ceremony of Delta Epsilon Phi took place on April 23.



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 8 Page 17

---

The service and ritual were written and planned by Marguerite Keck, and she enlisted the services of several local Alpha Gamma Delta alumnae to help her read the service and initiate the new members, including Mrs. Louise Englis (Xi Chapter) and Mrs. W.H. Hyslop (Beta Chapter). These two women, among others, would serve as patronesses of the young fraternity in the coming months, hosting meetings and social events in their homes. The first thirteen members initiated into Delta Epsilon Phi were:

Florence Downend	Viña Freitag
Marjorie Llewellyn	Mabel Osburn
Amy Weir	Mary Jane Weir
Pearl Weir	Jane Butler
Maud Butler	Nellie DuVall
Vallie Fallon	Hazel Linton
Geraldine Daly	

On April 24, Delta Epsilon Phi petitioned the Council of Administration at the University of Illinois for the right to exist as a local organization. The petition was immediately granted on the recommendation of Dean Gates, and the new women's fraternity was free to conduct business and social activities. One of the first group activities was a trip to Bloomington, Illinois, where Delta Epsilon Phi members "were guests of the Alpha Gamma Delta girls there."

The occasion was a chapter dance at Xi Chapter of Illinois Wesleyan University, and the trip was likely orchestrated by Marguerite Keck. Mabel Osburn reported that the two groups enjoyed a matinee theater party and a lovely luncheon together, and it is likely that they also discussed Delta Epsilon Phi's petition to become a chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta, which they were to present at the fraternity's upcoming national convention in Louisville, Kentucky in July. In the remaining weeks of the 1917 spring semester, Delta Epsilon Phi held several business meetings, social events, and additional initiation ceremonies, eventually bringing the roll of members to twenty-four. Officers were elected for the 1917-1918 academic year, rose and old gold were chosen as the fraternity's colors, and the rose was adopted as the official flower. Three patronesses were chosen and announced: Mrs. Bertha Trautman Hyslop (Beta Chapter), wife of Professor of Music William H. Hyslop; Mrs. Louise Strickle Englis (Xi), wife of Professor of Chemistry Duane T. Englis; and Mrs. Katharine Macy Noyes, wife of Professor of Chemistry W.A. Noyes. Of these three, Katharine Macy Noyes would prove to be particularly influential to the fortunes of the fraternity in the future, especially in her capacity as House Association President in the 1920s. She spearheaded and guided the campaign to construct a new house for Alpha Gamma Delta and continued to be actively involved with the Alumnae Association until her death in 1963.

All of these activities, from the picnic breakfasts and social hours with "gentlemen friends" to the business meetings at Mrs. Hyslop's house, were essential evidence of the current vitality and future growth potential of Delta Epsilon Phi, and they were highlighted in the formal petition that the members prepared for the Alpha Gamma Delta national convention. The petition was designed to acquaint outside observers with the current members of Delta Epsilon Phi, and each member was assigned her own page on which to display a photograph, hometown and high school information, and University of Illinois activities and honors. Delta Epsilon Phi women were

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 8 Page 18

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involved in YWCA, Choral Society, University Orchestra, the Chemical and Mathematical Clubs, the Athenian, Gregorian, and Jamesonian Literary Societies, the Women's Athletic Association, and athletic teams such as baseball, basketball, and bowling. The petition also included Mabel Osburn's history of the founding of Delta Epsilon Phi, a series of candid photographs of the group (many showing them engaged in athletic pursuits!), and letters of support and recommendation for individual members as well as the fraternity as a whole.

Delta Epsilon Phi's petition to become a chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta was accepted by the national organization that summer, and the fraternity embarked on its one-year trial period before the formal founding in June of 1918. During the 1917-1918 academic year Delta Epsilon Phi, led by president Amy Weir, continued to sponsor the normal fare for women's social fraternities, including parties, teas, picnics, and dances. The fraternity also began to rent a house, located at 1103 West Oregon Street in Urbana, in which some of the members could live and in which chapter meetings could be held. Members who wanted to live in the house were required to pay their own room and board, in addition to the regular fraternity dues of \$2.50 per month. Georgia Dickover noted in her 1931 national history that this house's successful operation, along with the group's high record of scholarship and community service, made Delta Epsilon Phi a strong and desirable candidate for inclusion in the chapter roll of Alpha Gamma Delta.

Finally, on June 12, 1918 – the university's Commencement Day – a morning pledging ceremony at the Delta Epsilon Phi house introduced twenty women into Alpha Gamma Delta. Later in the afternoon, they were formally initiated and installed as Sigma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta, with Mary Louise Brown, President of Alpha Gamma Delta's Beta Province, as the installing officer. An initiation banquet was held at the Inman Hotel in Champaign, and several local alumnae attended all of the day's festivities, including Sigma Chapter's patronesses and their professorial husbands. The following day, June 13, Professor and Mrs. Noyes hosted a reception at their home in Urbana, where Sigma Chapter was "introduced to the faculty and other fraternities." From June 1918 on, Sigma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta would be a strong presence in the University of Illinois Greek community.

The 1920s: Building for the Future

The first full decade of existence for Sigma Chapter, the 1920s, was a time of intense activity, especially the latter years of the decade which saw the planning for and construction of a grand new chapter house on Lincoln Avenue in Urbana. One of the most important moments in the history of this momentous project was actually the founding of an Alumnae Association in 1919, only one year after the formal founding of the chapter itself. This step proved especially crucial because it provided a vehicle for enthusiastic and influential alumnae to become more involved in the activities and concerns of the active collegiate chapter, and it was these women who spearheaded the financing, fundraising, and building campaign that eventually brought the new house into being. The most important figure in this project was Katharine Macy Noyes. The Alumnae Association and the later House Association greatly benefitted when, in 1919, she was named an honorary alumna by the active chapter in appreciation for her efforts as one of the chapter's patronesses.<sup>8</sup> With her honorary initiation, Noyes was transformed from an interested "outsider" into a true member of the sisterhood, and over the next nearly fifty years she would devote countless hours and energies to the promotion and improvement of Sigma Chapter.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 8 Page 19

---

Another noteworthy alumna was Viña Freitag Kilby, 1918, one of the original founders of Delta Epsilon Phi. Kilby served as Alpha Gamma Delta's Second Grand Vice-President from 1922 to 1925 and in this position was recognized for her work to calculate accurate ratings for fraternity scholarship averages.<sup>9</sup>

For most of the 1920s, Sigma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta was housed in several different locations – first 1103 West Oregon Street and then 807 West Nevada Street, Urbana, and after 1923 in a house that the fraternity purchased at 806 South Fifth Street, Champaign.<sup>10</sup> By the latter part of the decade, both the active and alumna members had a strong desire to design and build a new house, one that would better meet all of the specific social and housing needs of a growing women's fraternity, including a large living and dining area with space for dances, a chapter room for meetings and initiations, and plenty of bedrooms and bathrooms. In preparation for an eventual move, the House Association purchased a new lot at 1106 South Lincoln Avenue in Urbana, directly across the street from the University of Illinois McKinley Hospital.<sup>11</sup> Alpha Gamma Delta was not the only University of Illinois fraternity to have expansion on the brain in the late 1920s – in fact, Sigma Chapter carried on a friendly competition with its new Lincoln Avenue next-door neighbor, Kappa Kappa Gamma, to see which group could complete their new house first.

After several years of planning and discussion, the process to construct the new house officially began in the spring and summer of 1927, with House Association president Katharine Macy Noyes leading the way. In early June, the House Association received a set of General Specifications from George E. Ramey, who had previously been chosen as architect for the new chapter house. These specifications were then passed on to nine local contractors, who were given roughly a week to prepare their bids for labor and materials. On June 13, the contractors were invited to present their bids to the House Association, and the men wrote their estimates in a hand-drawn chart that allowed the bids to be compared easily and quickly. Later that evening, Walter J. Villard's bid – the third lowest of the nine – was selected. On June 22, the contract for construction of the new chapter house was signed between the House Association, Walter J. Villard, the father of Leona Villard Williams, Sigma '27, and George E. Ramey. The original cost estimate was \$51,938 (later reduced to \$49,968 after some changes to the plan) and the estimated completion date for the project was January 1, 1928.<sup>12</sup>

Most of Katharine Noyes' earliest efforts in the building campaign centered on securing proper financing for the project, and her work began immediately after the contract was signed. Part of the agreement authorized Mr. Villard, the contractor, to take over ownership of the fraternity's house and property at 806 South Fifth Street, Champaign, with equity of \$15,444.<sup>13</sup> The remaining portion of the cost had to be borrowed, and a 1934 narrative financial statement from the House Association indicates that \$65,000 was loaned by the Twin Cities Building and Loan Association, an amount that would cover construction costs as well as \$11,000 for the lot. Some additional funds were loaned by Alpha Gamma Delta's national organization, which made available to all chapters a small fund for precisely this purpose. In the coming years a second mortgage would be taken out on the house, in order to "protect jointly and equally all notes issued by the House Association for the purchase of stock and the reduction of the first mortgage indebtedness to the Twin Cities Building and Loan Association..."<sup>14</sup> Noyes and House Association

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 8 Page 20

---

treasurer Mabel Howard managed all of these financial transactions and kept careful records of their work, providing a fascinating portrait of the "building years" of Sigma Chapter.

The volume of correspondence between Katharine Noyes, Mabel Howard, and various contractors and sub-contractors in 1927 and 1928 is a testament to the enthusiastic involvement of these alumnae in the affairs and fortunes of the active chapter. Their interest in and involvement with the undergraduates, however, was not limited only to concerns about financing and construction, and their correspondence reveals this fact as well. Katharine Noyes lived in Urbana and was therefore in a position to be a close observer of both the activities and the character of the "Alpha Gam" undergraduates, and, interspersed with complaints about construction delays and anxieties about costs, she remarked on these issues in her frequent letters to Mabel Howard, who lived in Chicago. Although Noyes wrote in mid-September 1927 that the fall rushing period had netted nine or ten pledges who were "just darling," by the end of the month she expressed some exasperation with these girls and their active sisters over their choice of Mrs. Ella Bemis as house chaperone, writing testily that she was "not consulted about it at all."<sup>15</sup> Problems included the "dirty" state of the current house and the vague charge that the girls needed to be "more refined," since they were constantly being judged by those outside the fraternity whose opinions, in the words of Mabel Howard, "count most."<sup>16</sup>

Despite Katharine Noyes and Mabel Howard's seemingly low opinion of Ella Bemis, the house chaperone shared many of their concerns about "the girls," and she committed them to paper in a letter to Mabel Howard in early January 1928. At this point the house construction was inching toward its completion and the move into the new house, highly anticipated by all concerned, was being contemplated. In light of that fact, Mrs. Bemis expressed her hope that the move to the more "formal" environment of the new house would inspire the girls to be "more refined," and specifically that they would improve their table manners, greet her when she entered a room, and refrain from late-night phone calls with young men.<sup>17</sup> Noyes and Howard shared Mrs. Bemis' hope that living in a beautiful new home would produce the desired behavior in Sigma Chapter's active members, and because of this hope they paid careful attention to not only the outside but also the inside of the house, ordering sensible yet elegant furnishings and hiring a professional interior decorator, both chosen to fit into the house's "French Chateau" theme. All parties involved continued to be wary of the whims of the "college girls," however, and Mabel Howard's letters to Katharine Noyes in the spring of 1928 contain the suggestion that a set of house rules be drawn up and strictly adhered to, including a specific prohibition against "moving the furniture," since the hired decorator had placed it in a certain arrangement, and also against "lounging in the living room," which was supposed to be a formal space.<sup>18</sup> When the new house rules were actually published they were distributed on "Sigma of Alpha Gamma Delta House Association" stationery, reaffirming the jurisdiction of the alumnae over the undergraduate chapter, at least where the house was concerned. There were several additions to the rules originally suggested by Mabel Howard, including a prohibition against studying in the dining room and a provision that house residents must "use back stairs" when "not properly dressed."<sup>19</sup>

In all likelihood, the undergraduate members of Sigma Chapter in the late 1920s were no more or no less "unrefined" and concerned with issues other than their grades than other fraternity women of their era at the University of Illinois. Katharine Noyes and Mabel Howard's often-exasperated reaction to the younger women to whom they served as mentors and patronesses is also not

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 8 Page 21

---

surprising, given that the house construction represented an enormous outlay of both time and money. These women naturally wanted to protect Alpha Gamma Delta's investment and ensure that those who were to enjoy the fruits of their labor were "worthy" of it, hence the intense concern about grades, social activities, and "reputation." A certain amount of inter-generational suspicion is evident in Noyes and Howard's concerns about the younger women's behavior and values, and this suspicion often influenced their decisions about the house. In an October 1927 letter from Howard to Noyes, for instance, Howard mused that central light fixtures, though more expensive, might be a better choice for the new house than floor lamps, which would have to be cleared away when dances were held in the formal living areas. She realized, however, that this situation would plunge the girls and their dance partners into near-total darkness. At the risk of being, in her own words, "rather outspoken," she informed Noyes that this situation was likely to "please *some of them* but !!!..."<sup>20</sup> While Howard's primary intention in relating this fear about proper lighting to Noyes was surely to highlight the vast gap between "the girls" and "women" like themselves, at the same time she cannot deny that *she* was the one who had imagined the consequences of the dimly-lit dance in the first place. Howard's letter indicates that perhaps she, Noyes, and other alumnae were worried about "the girls" not because they found them so different from themselves at the same stage in their lives, but because they indeed found them rather similar!

All anxieties aside, by the late spring of 1928, the new Sigma chapter house was ready to be inhabited, although "finishing touches" continued to be added over the spring and summer months.<sup>21</sup> Cletis Westall Tallman '28, who along with her sister Alyene Westall Prehn '27 would remain a very active alumna, had the distinction of being the first president to serve in the new house. In May 1929 Katharine Noyes wrote approvingly to Mabel Howard that Mrs. Bemis' suite in the new house was "the envy of all the chaperones on campus," and more positive press in local newspapers generated feelings of pride among both the actives and the alumnae.<sup>22</sup> In addition to local acclaim, the "French Chateau" on Lincoln Avenue garnered attention in wider Alpha Gamma Delta circles, and Georgia Dickover's history of the national organization reported that Delta Delta Chapter's house at the University of Oregon was rumored to have been inspired by a description of Sigma Chapter's house in the *Alpha Gamma Delta Quarterly*.<sup>23</sup> This description informed readers that inside the house,

A French gallery presents a view of the entire first floor which contains a living room, spacious and charming, a cheery dining room, library, music room, coat room, reception room, kitchen and servants' quarters. The living room, library, and music room open onto a terrace and sunken garden...The furnishings of the house are in keeping with loveliness of the house itself.<sup>24</sup>

By all accounts, Alpha Gamma Delta's members, both actives and alumnae, were intensely proud of their new house and were especially grateful to those who had helped to make it a reality, an indication that perhaps the elegant new surroundings *were*, as the chaperone Mrs. Bemis hoped, "inspiring the girls" toward more "formal" living. After the intense and at times frantic activity of the 1920s, Alpha Gamma Delta entered its next two decades in a much more secure and prominent position on the University of Illinois campus, by virtue of its beautiful new home but also, increasingly, due to the accomplishments of its members and alumnae.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 8 Page 22

---

The 1930s: "One of the Leading Sororities"

By the beginning of its second full decade, Sigma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta was blooming on all fronts, with over two hundred active and alumnae members – many of them very accomplished – and a beautiful new house as a showplace. By 1931, Sigma Chapter could count six Phi Beta Kappas among its ranks (one of whom was Katharine Noyes, an honorary alumna), and its alumnae had also made a mark in the national Alpha Gamma Delta organization, including Mabel Howard, who served as Beta Province president and was also awarded the Crescent of Epsilon Pi, one of the fraternity's highest alumnae honors.<sup>25</sup> These alumnae certainly provided the active members with positive role models and proved that Alpha Gamma Delta had made a wise choice when it incorporated Delta Epsilon Phi in 1917.

The glowing house description from the national *Alpha Gamma Delta Quarterly* was repeated in miniature "handbooks" that Sigma Chapter produced in the mid-1930s, likely directed at either interested alumnae or prospective members. While the still-new house featured prominently in these pamphlets and was intended to serve as an attraction, the handbooks also focused on Sigma Chapter's active members and their accomplishments, giving evidence to the contention that Alpha Gamma Delta was "one of the leading sororities on the campus of the University of Illinois."<sup>26</sup>

In 1934, Sigma Chapter president Dorothy Kerr was women's editor of the *Illio* yearbook, a member of the senior honorary society Mortar Board, vice-president and former business manager of the Women's Glee Club, and vice-president of Gamma Alpha Chi, an honorary advertising sorority. Other members, such as freshman Evelyn Laurence and Betty Blair, were recognized for their outstanding scholarship, and Jean Parks and Becky Lydy drew praise for their "aquatic accomplishments" and their membership in Terrapin, a swimming society. Still other members were hailed for their participation and leadership in music societies and productions, the *Daily Illini* student newspaper, and organizations such as the Women's League.<sup>27</sup>

In the 1930s, Sigma Chapter also began to publish an occasional newsletter, *Sigma Sidelights*, in order to report on happenings in the active chapter as well as allow alumnae to keep in touch with one another after graduation. *Sigma Sidelights* proudly reported, in May 1936, that Alpha Gamma Delta was second on the campus in scholarship, with an overall GPA of 3.71!<sup>28</sup> Alpha Gamma Delta members continued to be active in a variety of campus organizations and honoraries, and one issue reported that several members regularly participated in weekly radio broadcasts on the campus station, WILL, as members of Phi Beta, a professional music and dramatics society. Another member, Hilda Mae Livengood '40, won her second Illinois state golf tournament in 1937. Other items in the newsletter confirm that Alpha Gamma Delta members continued to be active in all facets of university athletics open to women, perhaps a continuation of the strong athletic tradition present in Delta Epsilon Phi. A note from the March 1939 issue indicates that the Alpha Gams were supporters of a wider university athletics scene as well, as they invited legendary Illinois football coach Bob Zuppke to one of their faculty teas.<sup>29</sup>

Throughout the 1930s, Sigma Chapter continued to be involved not only with University of Illinois activities but also in upholding the traditional rituals and festivities of Alpha Gamma Delta. Sigma Chapter had an active Mothers' Club that was heavily involved, as many such clubs were, in



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetAlpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois  
Section number 8 Page 23

---

helping to furnish and decorate the new house as well as stock it with essentials such as silver, china, and the occasional luxury such as a Victrola or radio. The first Alpha Gamma Delta Mothers' Club had been organized in 1915, at Delta Chapter at the University of Minnesota, and the organizations had been a staple of fraternity life ever since. The members of Sigma Chapter organized events to recognize and thank the members of their Mothers' Club, often linking these celebrations with other university-wide events honoring mothers. These gestures were certainly appreciated by Sigma Chapter's mothers, but an interesting letter from Mabel Howard to Katharine Noyes reported that some of the Alpha Gam *fathers* were miffed that their own contributions to the fraternity (often financial in nature) seemed to be overlooked by their daughters, and specifically noted that "the girls" never planned any events for Dad's Day, which was also a campus-wide event. Howard suggested to Noyes that the fathers should form a club to serve as a foil to the Mothers' Club, and while later records from the 1960s and 1970s mention a "Dad's Club," it is not clear when this suggestion was finally acted upon.<sup>30</sup>

Overall, the 1930s seem to have been a time of stability and comfort for Sigma Chapter – the active membership of the fraternity remained steady at around forty women per year, the alumnae remained devoted and involved, and the beautiful house continued to see improvements in furnishings and accessories every few years. Although it is hard to imagine that Sigma Chapter, its active members, and its alumnae were *not* affected by the Depression and its accompanying economic and social hardships, there is little mention of these issues in any surviving material, such as the *Sigma Sidelights* newsletter or House Association correspondence. This seeming isolation from events happening in the "real world" in the 1930s serves as a stark contrast to Sigma Chapter's next decade, when concerns about World War II touched nearly every aspect of university and fraternity life, as well as the lives of Sigma Chapter's alumnae.

The 1940s: Wartime and Recovery

It was essential for Sigma Chapter to keep an active membership of around forty members, who would live in the house and support its daily operation and mortgage payments with their room and board fees. The housing situation at the University of Illinois became a hot-button issue, especially for Greek houses, in the midst of the war years. In 1942, the University's Housing Division, under authority from the Board of Trustees, proposed a new set of housing standards that would, among other things, require fraternities and sororities to limit the number of people who could live in their houses, thereby causing the groups to lose these much-needed funds.<sup>31</sup> All University-affiliated housing was surveyed as a prelude to the formulation of these standards, and many of the Greek houses, including Sigma Chapter's, were found to be deficient in terms of "personal space." The new standards mandated that 500 cubic feet of air space and 63 square feet of floor area was required for each student in a study room, and that in sleeping areas 400 cubic feet of air space per person was required, a figure "well supported by expert opinion...based upon carbon dioxide elimination and air movement necessary to keep the chemical composition of the air normal."<sup>32</sup> Other violations outlined by Jean Hoskins, the Assistant for Women's Housing, included study lamps with 40-watt lightbulbs instead of the recommended 100 watts and paper wastebaskets instead of metal models. After an assessment of Sigma Chapter's house according to the guidelines for personal "airspace," Ms. Hoskins recommended in May 1942 that the capacity of the house be gradually reduced from forty-three to thirty-seven over a period of eighteen months.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 8 Page 24

---

Sigma Chapter actives and alumnae, along with their counterparts in other University of Illinois fraternities and sororities, likely exhaled a sigh of relief on July 25, when the Committee on Student Welfare and Activities, chaired by Helen Grigsby, recommended to the Board of Trustees that it "reaffirm in principle that living conditions in student houses of all types must be maintained on a basis that insures the health and safety of the students," but also noted that "the Board realizes that the housing program of the University must be a long term one to be realized gradually and with due regard for existing conditions and financial programs, as well as the requirements of an all-out war effort."<sup>33</sup> The announcement went on to say that the Board of Trustees and the Housing Division commended the efforts of houses that had already attempted to address the recommendations given to them by the Division's initial inspections, but that houses that did not feel financially able to make substantial changes in the present climate would not be penalized. This pronouncement effectively ended the 1942 housing "crisis," a fact that was reaffirmed for Sigma Chapter when Earl Thompson, the acting director of the Housing Division, wrote to Alumna Advisor Mrs. M.J. Dorsey in August to inform her that the Board of Trustees' statement "gives us more leeway in this matter than we have previously had." Mr. Thompson informed Mrs. Dorsey that the Housing Division was "now in a position to make adjustment of study room and dormitory capacities outlined in our earlier letter," as long as these adjustments did not endanger the health of the students.<sup>34</sup> Sigma Chapter was thus saved from either expensive renovations or forced reduction of the house quota, although the general climate of war austerity was already making the quota hard to fill.

Although the United States' official entry into the war received no mention in *Sigma Sidelights* or other official Sigma Chapter materials, by 1942 the war effort clearly touched almost every aspect of "normal" University and Greek life. One of the most notable changes was the drop in general enrollment (the December 1943 *Sigma Sidelights* estimated the decrease as 49 percent from October 1942!) and the vastly increased ratio of women to civilian men. In this environment, the undergraduates in Sigma Chapter largely replaced their social engagements with USO work, raising money for the campus War Chest Fund, writing to Illini in the service, and buying war savings stamps, but in October 1942 they also entertained twenty ensigns for dinner at the chapter house, an activity that must have seemed much more familiar, and therefore somewhat comforting.<sup>35</sup> Alumnae were urged to help keep some of the traditional elements of university life from becoming victims of war austerity, and they were especially urged to help with recruiting and recommending new members for Rush and to attend the Homecoming festivities.<sup>36</sup>

The war's treatment in *Sigma Sidelights* could not continue to be so lighthearted, and as early as 1942 the alumnae pages contained the sad news that Pat Braun Webb's husband had been killed in action in Australia.<sup>37</sup> Over the next few years alumnae updated their sisters on the status of their husbands and increasingly their own war activities as well. *Sigma Sidelights* editor Mary Lou Hayes '38 wrote in the March 1943 edition that she was compelled to relinquish her duties, having "yielded to patriotism" and joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. In late 1943, Eolyne Nichols was "one of fifteen feminine pilots" at Camp Stewart's Liberty Field in Georgia, and by 1945 she would rack up over 4,000 hours of flying time, mostly cargo runs and operational testing missions from the B-24 and C-54 aircraft. Cletis Westall Tallman came to visit the chapter house in 1944 and reported on her "interesting experiences as a working girl in the Douglas Aircraft Factory."<sup>38</sup> While undergraduate members supported the war effort on campus through



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 8 Page 25

---

fundraising and volunteer work, some alumnae members participated directly in a variety of capacities.

Despite the large decrease in university-wide enrollment, Sigma Chapter fared reasonably well during the war years, as it kept a steady membership and was able to operate with no notable financial difficulties. In 1944 the chapter pledged twenty-one new members, a class that was considered to be a great success in the wartime environment.<sup>39</sup> The chapter was therefore in good shape when peace was finally declared and the atmosphere at the University of Illinois returned to normal. The chapter's photograph in the 1945 *Illio* shows a very robust group, with fifty members. The 1945 edition also included a summary of the chapter's activities, awards, and accomplishments – another first for the *Illio* – and the yearbook reported that Sigma Chapter's women were involved in such varied pursuits as the Shi-Ai Sing (in which they won first place in 1944!), the Homecoming Stunt Show, Theater Guild productions, the "Cheering Illini," Shorter Board, Torch honorary, YWCA, Terrapin, Orchesis (a dance group), and several academic honoraries, including Sigma Delta Phi (Spanish), Theta Sigma Phi (Journalism), and Sigma Alpha Iota (Music).<sup>40</sup>

There is little archival source material covering the period from 1946 through the beginning of the 1950s, although the formal *Illio* photographs show a healthy group seemingly unaffected by the enrollment issues during the war years. In 1946 *Sigma Sidelights* had alerted alumnae to a "rushing emergency" due to yet another housing requirement, this time a University rule stating that all incoming freshmen must have a housing contract *before* beginning their study in the fall. This rule would prevent new members of Greek organizations from moving into their houses, so most Greeks opted to shift Rush to the spring semester instead of the fall, and to invite high school seniors and transfer students to visit the campus then.<sup>41</sup> Alpha Gamma Delta alumnae were urged to step up their recruitment and recommendation functions in advance of this spring Rush period, and the plea must have been successful, as Sigma Chapter's membership remained between forty-six and fifty-five members for the remainder of the 1940s and early 1950s. The student population of the University as a whole rebounded as well, as an estimated 6,000 veterans enrolled after the war. On the whole, Sigma Chapter's wartime and immediate postwar experience seems to have been, while not without some sacrifice and heartbreak, largely positive and productive. The fraternity was able to weather housing crises, low enrollment, and strained finances to remain viable and active in the University of Illinois community.

#### The 1950s: A Solid Tradition

The 1950s can be characterized as a decade of outward motion for Sigma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta, as the fraternity's concerns and influence increasingly radiated beyond the house on Lincoln Avenue and even beyond the University of Illinois. Evidence of this greater awareness can be found in a new emphasis on philanthropy, in the chapter's involvement with international Alpha Gamma Delta personalities and conventions, and in its role in fraternity colonization, the latter of which truly illustrates the growth and development that the group had undergone since it was first formed as Delta Epsilon Phi in 1917.

Although Alpha Gamma Delta and Sigma Chapter had certainly always included philanthropic projects among their priorities, in the 1950s Sigma Chapter's efforts garnered more recognition

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 8 Page 26

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from the University of Illinois community. While it is possible that the chapter's philanthropic activities actually increased in the more prosperous 1950s, such a growth is impossible to quantify. What is evident from archival materials, however, is that Sigma Chapter gained two important sources of publicity in the first postwar decade that had not existed before: the new *Illigreek* newspaper (founded in 1956) and a weekly column on Greek affairs in the *News-Gazette*, written by Sigma Chapter alumna Fran Myers. *The Illigreek* was created by the University's Greek organizations specifically to enhance the reputation of the Greek system, which its members often felt was unfairly maligned in the pages of the campus' official student newspaper, the *Daily Illini*.

*The Illigreek's* first issue, published on October 8, 1956, included an article entitled "AG Delts Help Cerebral Palsy," giving recognition to the longtime work that Sigma Chapter had done with local children suffering from the disease. Along with "a board of doctors and parents of cerebral palsy children," Sigma Chapter's members had developed a comprehensive philanthropic effort that included a baby-sitting program, an Easter egg hunt, and Christmas parties given in conjunction with a men's fraternity, Phi Sigma Kappa.<sup>42</sup> Over the next several years, *The Illigreek* newspaper took a leading role in highlighting all aspects of Greek life on the Illinois campus, and Sigma Chapter often appeared in its pages – most frequently when an "Alpha Gam" was listed as a member of the paper's editorial staff. This first issue of the new paper also reported that six different Sigma Chapter members had been selected as beauty queens for various men's fraternity formals and charity contests, and – in an article dedicated to "unusual atmospheres" at pledge dances – that Sigma Chapter pledges and their dates had danced the night away at the "Bug Bounce" the previous Saturday.<sup>43</sup> The overall goal of the early *Illigreek* issues seems to have been to paint a picture of Greek life that was appealing both for its dedication to community philanthropy and for college's carefree joys, which it made accessible to its members.

Fran Myers, who was also appointed as Alpha Gamma Delta's national Information Director in 1955, often highlighted Sigma Chapter in her *News-Gazette* columns and greatly increased the visibility of one of the University's oldest women's fraternities. One of the earliest Myers columns preserved in the Sigma Chapter records is an extensive report on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary convention of Alpha Gamma Delta, held in Quebec in 1954. The event commemorated the founding of the sorority with meetings, receptions, and speeches, and several Sigma Chapter members, including Myers, attended. The column succeeds in painting an impressive picture of both Alpha Gamma Delta and Sigma Chapter, and it especially highlights the international presence that the group has been able to build in its fifty-year history.<sup>44</sup>

In 1957, Sigma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta participated in a ceremony that powerfully signified just how far the fraternity had evolved in the nearly forty years since its founding as Delta Epsilon Phi. In the fall semester of that year, a team of Sigma Chapter members helped to initiate members of Nu Delta Sigma, a local women's fraternity at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, as Beta Eta Chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta. When Sigma Chapter celebrated its own forty-year anniversary in 1958, three of the original founders of the local chapter were in attendance for a special dinner and history program at the chapter house, and must have taken great pride in the knowledge that their small group had flourished so decidedly in the meantime.<sup>45</sup> In 1960, another Sigma Chapter group would travel to Eastern Illinois University in Charleston to initiate a local sorority as Beta Iota Chapter. Just as Marguerite Keck and her sisters in Xi Chapter had served as mentors and guides to Delta Epsilon Phi in 1917, in the 1950s the active

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois  
Section number 8 Page 27

---

and alumnae members of Sigma Chapter were in a position to help fledgling chapters on other campuses.

Although the 1950s for Sigma Chapter are notable for these wider concerns, for the undergraduate members the University of Illinois campus continued to form the center of their day-to-day interests and activities. Social activities included fraternity exchanges, formals in the fall and spring, serenades and pinning ceremonies with fraternities, and football cheering blocks.<sup>46</sup> Sigma Chapter members continued to be involved in a number of campus-wide events, both traditional ones such as the Homecoming Stunt Show (in which Sigma Chapter was a finalist in 1956, with a skit entitled "Manhattan Mayhem") and new ones such as "Sheequon," a 1958 revival of the "Spring Carnival" that had been held in the earlier years of the century but subsequently discontinued. Sheequon, which the March 3<sup>rd</sup> *The Illigreek* described as "an Indian word meaning spring," was an initiative of the Greek community, but the event sought to involve the entire campus with parties, contests, and a parade. The newspaper reported that the event would be kicked off by simultaneous "tom-toms" across campus, and that the University's mascot, Chief Illiniwek, would serve as Master of Ceremonies.<sup>47</sup> In 1959 Alpha Gamma Delta and Tau Kappa Epsilon combined to produce the prize-winning Sheequon parade float in the "Indian Incidents" division with a float entitled "Golden Age of the Incas." Sigma Chapter also participated in another new event in the 1950s that was much more staid: a joint meeting and celebration with Alpha Phi and Gamma Phi Beta, two women's fraternities founded at Syracuse University in 1872 and 1874, respectively. The three groups came together to form the "Syracuse Triad" and periodically held meetings and events to celebrate their common origin. The first mention of this celebration is in the February 1959 issue of *Sigma Sidelights*, although it is possible that similar events were held prior to this date.

The 1950s also brought two important moments in the life of the house at 1106 South Lincoln Avenue. In 1953, the house was finally paid off and Katharine Macy Noyes, still a very active honorary alumna, "had the pleasure of burning the mortgage at a gay celebration held at the house on April 10, 1953."<sup>48</sup> This milestone came just in time for some much-needed renovations and interior redecoration. In December 1956, Fran Myers reported in her *News-Gazette* column that Sigma Chapter's house had not only undergone an extensive renovation characterized by "elegance, simplicity," and an "España motif," but that earlier in the year the fraternity had "installed a new gas furnace and two automatic hot water heaters; one 85 gallon and another of 35 gallon capacity, the latter for use in the kitchen."<sup>49</sup> These practical modernizations allowed the fraternity to rededicate the former coal room to another innovation: automatic laundry equipment. Katharine Noyes' hard work in the 1920s had resulted in a comfortable and adaptable home for Sigma Chapter, one that proved able to change with the times and still accommodate a healthy fraternity. Partly due to the encouragement and support of its committed alumnae, Sigma Chapter's membership remained steady again in the 1950s. The group's formal *Illio* pages from the decade often showed its members relaxing in and around their home.<sup>50</sup>

As noted above, the chapter house had undergone several interior renovations and redecorations since its construction in 1928, including a major redecoration project in 1960-1961 that had added multi-colored princess telephones in every bedroom, prompting the *Illio* to ask, "Each Alpha Gam a princess?"<sup>51</sup> By the early 1960s, however, a consensus had been reached by active and alumnae members that the house needed a major addition so that it could continue to accommodate the

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 8 Page 28

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growing fraternity. By 1964 the house quota was forty-five, but forty-nine girls were squeezed into the dorms and the kitchen and dining room were not adequate to meet the needs of such a large group.<sup>52</sup> The House Association inaugurated its planning in August 1964, employing Donald Laz of the architectural firm Laz and Edwards to design a new wing for the house. The House Association passed the final construction plans "with enthusiasm" in November 1964, and a construction contract was signed in January 1965. Construction on the new addition was announced in the March 1965 issue of *Sigma Sidelights*, along with a fundraising campaign chaired by Ella Mae Dodds that eventually raised \$4,750 to defray building costs.<sup>53</sup> The total cost of the addition, including construction, electrical work, roofing repair, new furniture and decorating, kitchen remodeling, and landscaping, came to almost \$150,000 – almost \$100,000 more than the cost of the original house!<sup>54</sup> The new addition, finally completed in the late fall of 1965, increased the house capacity to sixty-five and included a new "Mediterranean" dining room with seating for one hundred, ten additional study rooms, a second-floor lounge, a new patio with professional landscaping, a rear parking area and improvements to the existing kitchen. Photographs of the dining room and new study rooms accompanied a September 26 article in *The News-Gazette* that highlighted several Greek house renovations that greeted students in the fall of 1965, and the description of the addition in the 1966 *Illio* highlighted "a special pantry where the girls could prepare midnight snacks."<sup>55</sup> The additions and improvements to Sigma Chapter's lovely French chateau helped to usher the nearly forty-year-old structure into a new era for the fraternity, one that would see the membership steadily rise to over one hundred by the 1980s. As House Association President Barbara Palmer wrote in her final report on the building campaign, "With the combination of the new and old facilities of their house, Sigma members felt better prepared to fulfill the rich tradition of Alpha Gamma Delta and looked forward to the coming years with more enthusiasm than ever."<sup>56</sup>

**Architecture**

The Alpha Gamma Delta fraternity house was designed by local architect George Ramey in a French Eclectic style. This style has a number of interpretations: it can be symmetrical in treatment with Renaissance detailing; asymmetrical with informal, medieval details; or a towered Norman cottage. It originates from the informal domestic buildings of northwestern France, especially Normandy and Brittany; and, with the Norman cottage subgroup, is closely connected to medieval English traditions.<sup>57</sup> Related to the Tudor architectural style, both styles share the use of a variety of different wall materials and tall steeply-pitched roofs are prominent features. Tile, slate, stone or thatch are the most common roofing materials. However, French Eclectic style roofs rarely have the dominant front-facing cross gable found in the Tudor architectural style, but their roofs may flare slightly at the eaves. Other characteristics of the French style include quoins, double-hung or casement windows, full-length casement windows (French doors) with shutters, and circular roof dormers. The subgroup, Norman cottage, is based on farmhouse examples from Normandy and is a romanticized, informal, asymmetrical style commonly identified by a prominent round tower with a tall, conical roof; the entrance is often found in the tower. In addition to having the window and roof characteristics of the French Eclectic style, mixed wall textures are also common characteristics of the Norman subgroup.<sup>58</sup>

World War I helped familiarize Americans with this French vernacular style and architects became conversant with the style through the publication of various studies in the 1920s.<sup>59</sup> From about

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 8 Page 29

---

1915 to 1940, many Norman cottage or French Eclectic style houses were built, especially in well-to-do suburbs in the east and Midwest. House plan firms and ready-cut-house distributors quickly picked up the style and small scale houses based on a free interpretation of the French style, often intermingled with medieval English characteristics, were soon to be found all across America.<sup>60</sup>

The Alpha Gamma Delta chapter house has elements of the French Eclectic style and its subgroup, the Norman cottage. The house is asymmetrical in plan with steeply-pitched hip roofs covered in slate tiles; the slight flare at the eaves is a characteristic of the style as are the stone quoins. French doors with round-arched transoms are a significant design element of both the original house (living room) and the addition (dining room); while casement sash, both wood and metal, are used throughout the building. The central stair tower dominates the facade, as befitting an informal Norman "cottage" and is complete with conical roof. Informality is also evidenced by the use of a variety of materials: half-timbering, stucco, stone, and grey concrete brick. The grey brick was particularly chosen for its informality, yet aged stone-like color and appeal. While the entrance is not located in the tower, it is directly adjacent with a medieval style open porch complete with half-timbering in its gable and Tudor arched openings and doors.

On the interior, the central gallery/hall plan, with rooms opening off of it, is a common French Eclectic style idiom as is the short enfilade extending from the living room, through the card and trophy rooms to the service hall. Other French details are found in the gallery's ceiling with its elaborate cast-plaster ornament consisting of two straight fillet bands with intermediate (thirds) groupings of acanthus leaf cartouches; a center ceiling medallion with floral elements and a scalloped shell complements the foliated corner cartouche. In the living room, the stone fireplace is distinctly French in style including its large sloping chimney hood, acanthus leaf corbels and paneled frieze, stone hearth, and decorative metal hood. Round-arched openings encircle the room with light; the west French doors open onto a balcony, while the east French door originally opened onto a terrace and garden. Norman vernacular style is used in the interior of the tower with its encircling staircase which extends from the basement to the attic story and includes a curved wood bench. The original wood doors are either three panel or two long panels, both Medieval in derivation and appropriate for this chapter house.

The Sigma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta described their new home in a 1930s promotional handbook.

Sigma's lovely chapter house was completed in 1928. The house is easily accessible to the main campus of the University, located just opposite the beautiful University forest and McKinley Hospital. Of grey brick, trimmed with white stone and wrought iron, the style of architecture is that of a French Chateau. A striking feature of the exterior is a French tower which encases the winding stair that leads to the upper floors.

A French gallery presents a view of the entire first floor -- drawing room, spacious and charming, a cheery dining room, music room, coat room, reception room, kitchen and servants' quarters. The drawing room, library and music room open onto a terrace and sunken garden.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 8 Page 30

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Second and third floors contain living quarters for forty girls. Ten study rooms, housemother's suite, guest room, upstairs living room with a balcony overlooking the garden, president's office, pressing room, bath and shower quarters comprise the second floor. On the third floor there are the same number of study rooms; also, dormitories, one for freshmen and another for upper classmen. In addition there are bath and shower facilities and a pressing room. For play hours there's a recreational room in the basement.<sup>61</sup>

The chapter was very proud of their new house and its architecture. According to Alpha Gamma Delta members, this was the "first house of grey brick" and the only chapter house of "French architecture on campus." They called it the Alpha Gamma Chateau.<sup>62</sup> The choice of building material, particularly the brick, was of great concern to the building committee. Letters in the chapter's archives detail the lengthy decision process that led to the choice of a grey concrete face brick for the houses's exterior. Chair Katharine Noyes wrote the American Face Brick Association for advice on the best way to find and purchase grey brick. Three local brick supply companies that handled grey brick were suggested. The committee also talked with University of Illinois engineering professors about the qualities of the specific brick types and had quality tests run on a sample slag brick that was under consideration. In addition, the Silica Brick and Engineering Company of Chicago supplied addresses of various building in the Chicago area that were made from similar brick for the committee to view. These included the Chicago Tribune Tower, the State-Lake Theater, and Lake Shore Drive buildings. After much deliberation, it was decided to use the grey slag brick as manufactured by the Silica Brick and Engineering Company of Chicago and purchased through Morris L. Hecker Co. of Champaign.<sup>63</sup>

It is interesting to note that the choice of brick was a concrete and slag product, not a typical clay brick. Contrary to the amount of information on concrete block, there is limited information about concrete brick. According to the *Handbook of Building Construction*, cement bricks are "made either by hand or by machine, and are similar in composition and qualities to cement building blocks. Portland cement and sand, or sand and gravel or crushed stone, mixed in the proportions of 1 part cement to 4 parts sand and 1 part cement to 3 parts sand and 3 parts gravel or crushed stone. . . . Various textures and colors can be obtained by the use of different aggregates. . . ."<sup>64</sup> Slag brick is a brick made of crushed blast-furnace slag mixed with lime. Recent tests made on the Alpha Gamma Delta brick by Illinois Central Concrete concluded that it was concrete brick mixed with a slag aggregate.

Constructed in 1965 by Barber & DeAtley, general contractors, from the design of Donald Laz, the additions are of a compatible architectural style, but still "read" as additions. The dining room addition extended the original dining room, which projected to the west a few feet, to near the west end of the lot. The original brick color and bonding pattern were matched, but the addition has less detail than that of the original building. On the first story, the French door arcade is replicated with round-arched transoms and quoined stucco, but there is no stone cornice nor iron work. However, the doors do open onto the large terrace. The west elevation is blind, for privacy and noise control from the busy street, and only one opening is centered on the addition's south elevation. Although the original grouped metal casement sash, with and without transoms, are duplicated, they are used sparingly. Similar simplified wall treatment is found in the southeast addition. Here the original half-timbering and casement groups are replicated, but



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 8 Page 31

---

this is the extent of the ornament which is in keeping with this addition's rear placement. The large two-level terrace was added as part of the 1965 renovation. Since then, it has become an integral setting for sorority rush and chapter activities as have the French door arcades. In 2003 the terrace was rebuilt with great care to orient the concrete joint lines with the arcades. Since the additions' construction, changes to the Alpha Gamma Delta house have been minimal, consisting primarily of required life safety and code work such as the construction of emergency egress stairs on the rear and secondary elevations.

Architects and contractors

The Alpha Gamma Delta Building Committee began interviewing architects in December, 1926 and January, 1927. Among those that were interviewed were Professors R.P. Holscher and L.C. Dillenback, University of Illinois, and Arthur B. Gallion and Earl Macy, St. Louis. George E. Ramey, Champaign, was chosen, however, because of his previous experience with fraternities and sororities on campus (his references were checked!) and his local accessibility to the project. In addition, his initial design was more to the liking of the board and the needs of the chapter.

The rejection letters to Mr. Gallion and Professor Holscher refer to the intention of the building committee to cooperate with their next-door-to-be neighbors, the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, who were planning their new chapter house to the north. "We were lead to take a definite step by the fact that the Kappas wished to plan their house with reference to ours and were holding up their building plans until we should decide on at least our general frontage and arrangement."<sup>65</sup>

In a spirit of cooperation, the two architects, George Ramey and Kappa's architect, Ralph Milman of Howard Van Doren Shaw Associates, collaborated on the plan of the two houses.

A letter from Ramey to Milman reads in part:

We are enclosing herewith blue print of sketch First Floor of Chapter House for Sigma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta. [sic]

The Officers and some of those interested in this sorority have talked with the Building Committee of Kappa Kappa Gamma, and it has been suggested by Mrs. Carman that it would be a very fine thing for these two sororities to have their gardens adjoining, and therefore keep the service wings as far apart as possible.

In fact, Mrs. Carman said that you were holding up your working drawings until it had been definitely decided as to just what the Alpha Gamma Delta Chapter intended to build.

We are considering putting the Kitchen and Service Wing to the South, which reverses the plan as originally contemplated. There are many things to be said in favor of reversing the plan, as has been done on this sketch, and of course some thing a [sic] to be said against it, but the Alpha Gamma Delta Committee express a desire to have me talk with you regarding your general scheme and their general scheme, so that we may all work to the best advantage.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 8 Page 32

---

Will you please look this over and let us know how it works in with your scheme, and may we see a rough layout of your ground floor, . . .<sup>66</sup>

Milman replied in February 1927 with the following:

Enclosed is a print showing the Kappa House, which we are planning with the fraternity house you are designing, and possibility of another fraternity house on the remaining property on the block.

We have developed our house with the Living side and Dining Room facing on the garden. It is our intention to make this side of the house equally, if not more attractive than the two street fronts.

I think if you follow the suggestion of the plan you sent us, with the Living side of your house facing into the Living side of our house, and the open spaces of the gardens adjoining, it will enhance the effect for both houses. . . .

I am pleased to have this co-operation, and think the results we attain should be much better than if we went along independently.<sup>67</sup>

According to the correspondence between the two architects, much coordination was achieved in the facing of the living rooms of the respective houses toward each other, adjoining the open spaces of the rear gardens between the living rooms, and putting the service wings of the two houses at opposite ends. Ramey even revised his original floor plans to accommodate these changes. This is a great example of cooperation between Greek chapters and urban planning on a small scale.

The architect for the Alpha Gamma Delta house, prominent local architect, George Ramey, was born in Paxton, Illinois in 1889, but his family moved to Champaign in 1900. He attended Champaign High School (1907) and the University of Illinois, from which he graduated with a BS in Architecture in 1912. Ramey initially worked for the Chicago firm of Zimmerman and Saxe, but by 1915 he was back in Champaign with the firm of Spencer and Temple. Spencer and Temple designed many Champaign schools and business blocks in the 1910s and 20s. Ramey's tenure with the firm was interrupted by World War I, in which Ramey served as a lieutenant in the US Army Engineer Corp. After the war, Ramey was the supervising architect under Charles Crane and Kenneth Franzheim for the Virginia Theatre (1920) and for the Emanuel Episcopal Church (1923), designed by Ralph Adams Cram's firm. A number of public and private buildings were designed by Ramey including Robeson's Department Store (1915), University Women's Club (1923), Kappa Alpha Theta (1923), Pi Beta Phi (1925), Newman Foundation (1927), Cooperative Faculty Apartments (1927), Sigma Phi Epsilon (1927), Alpha Sigma Phi (1928), Tau Epsilon Phi (1928), Kappa Delta (1928), Sigma Nu Chapter House (1930), Alpha Chi Omega Chapter House (1931), Burnham City Hospital Addition (1935), Champaign City Building (1935), Champaign Junior High School (1935), Rialto Theater remodel (1938), and a number of private homes along University Avenue, Champaign. A reserve officer, Ramey was called to local WW II duty in 1940, eventually (1942) joining the Supreme Allied Command in London as the



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 8 Page 33

---

transportation officer for England. After the war, Ramey suffered a cerebral hemorrhage and retired to Florida where he died in 1961.<sup>68</sup>

Walter J. Villard, father of Alpha Gamma Delta member Leona Villard, won the bid to construct the Alpha Gamma Delta house. Born in Ohio (1883), Villard attended the Chicago Technical College, from which he graduated as a construction engineer. He came to the Champaign-Urbana area with his wife Iva Morgan Villard (married 1904) in 1915 and worked for the Brooks and Freeman Construction Company. In the late 1924 he began his own company. Villard Court, a Mediterranean-influenced Bungalow Court, was built by him in 1927, following the construction of the Bailey House in 1926. His firm, Villard Real Estate Improvement Corporation, was incorporated with \$50,000 in 1928 with the ability to own, improve and sell real estate. Walter Villard was president, James R. Boers, vice-president, and Iva Villard, secretary-treasurer. Later in life, Villard was a construction supervisor for a large local construction company, Kuhne-Simmons. He must have been proud of his work on the Alpha Gamma Delta house as it was listed among his accomplishments in his 1960 obituary.<sup>69</sup>

Donald Laz was the architect for the 1965 addition to the Alpha Gamma Delta house. Laz graduated from West Aurora High School in 1947 and then attended the University of Illinois from which he graduated in architecture in 1952. Initially, Laz worked in the University's architects office, before joining the firm of Berger-Kelley and Associates (1952-1955). In 1955 he began his own company, Donald R. Laz, Architect and Delineator. Robert Edwards joined Laz in 1958 to form the architectural firm of Laz and Edwards; Russell Dankert joined in 1963. Laz left in 1976 to once again operate his own architectural practice; Donald Laz died in 1996. After his departure, the original firm became Edwards and Dankert. In 1984, Edwards moved to Bloomington, Illinois, and the firm evolved into Dankert and Associates. During the 1950s and 1960s, Laz, Edwards, and Dankert were responsible for Bethal AME Church, the Bell Tower at the Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, the Urbana Country Club, the UI Golf Course Clubhouse, Kecks Furniture Store, and Westminster Presbyterian Church, Champaign, plus additions to the Kappa Delta and Zeta Tau Alpha chapter houses, along with Alpha Gamma Delta.<sup>70</sup>

The firm of Barber & DeAtley was founded in 1949 by Frank Barber and Jack C. DeAtley, who were boyhood friends born and raised in Urbana. Jack DeAtley attended the University of Illinois and worked for his father E.N. DeAtley, who had a local construction business. Frank Barber was a finish carpenter for Ozier Construction, which built houses and apartments in Champaign-Urbana. One of the first projects for the new firm was a "spec" house, but the company soon became involved in commercial work and developed relationships with a number of architectural firms including Berger-Kelley and Associates. During the 1950s and 60s, the firm constructed additions to many fraternity and sorority houses; the Alpha Gamma Delta house addition in 1965 was such a commission. Jack DeAtley retired in 1982 and Frank Barber in 1984. Both original principals are deceased and the firm is operated by Jack's grandson Jack H. and his great-grandsons Edward and Robert.<sup>71</sup>

### **Summary**

The Alpha Gamma Delta chapter house is an excellent local example of the French Eclectic architectural style designed and built in 1928 by prominent local firms: George Ramey, architect,

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 8 Page 34

---

and Walter Villard, contractor. The 1965 addition was designed in a compatible style and does not detract from the integrity of the original style and construction. The interior components of the house are original, despite being the home of hundreds of sorority members for eighty years. The house is also 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. Alpha Gamma Delta is a legal fraternity of women, commonly termed a "sorority."
2. 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), p. E.5.
3. MPD, pp. E.11 to E.12.
4. MPD, p. E.13.
5. Ibid.
6. The information in Section 8 on the history of Alpha Gamma Delta, Sigma Chapter, is primarily taken from "A History of Sigma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign," by Kate Meehan Pedrott, 2 March 2007, copyright by the Society for the Preservation of Greek Housing and the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois.
7. This design was changed in 1905 to a plain Delta, a chased Gamma, and an Alpha set with pearls or diamonds superimposed on the other two letters.
8. *Sigma Sidelights*, January 1963, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
9. Georgia A. Dickover, ed. *Alpha Gamma Delta Quarterly (January 1931, History Issue)*, (Menasha, Wisconsin: George Banta Publishing Company), p. 59.
10. [http://www.agdsigma.com/page.php?page\\_id=752](http://www.agdsigma.com/page.php?page_id=752). Accessed July 28, 2006.
11. Sigma of Alpha Gamma Delta House Association bought Lot two and the south thirty seven feet of Lot three of Assessor's Subdivision of Lot "E" of Assessor's Plat of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section Seventeen Township Nineteen North Range Nine East of the third Principal Meridian, except Lincoln Place from Albert H. Lybyer and Clara A. Lybyer on 8 October 1927, filed 11 October 1927, Champaign County Deed Book 208, p. 43.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 8 Page 35

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12. Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
13. Champaign County Deed Book 204, dated 10 August 1927, filed 6 September 1927, p. 609.
14. Sigma of Alpha Gamma Delta House Association Financial Statement of November 11, 1934, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
15. Letter from Katharine Macy Noyes to Mabel Howard, September 30, 1927, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
16. Letters from Mabel Howard to Katharine Macy Noyes, November 16 and 20, 1927, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
17. Letter from Ella Bemis to Mabel Howard, January 4, 1928, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
18. Letters from Mabel Howard to Katharine Noyes, February 28 and March 8, 1928, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives. The March 8 letter contains the line, "What is the matter with Priscilla? Can't she act like ladies should?," which, while cryptic, hints at some of the issues with which we know Howard, Noyes, and Mrs. Bemis to have been quite concerned.
19. Rules for New House, c. 1928, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
20. Letter from Mabel Howard to Katharine Noyes, October 19, 1928, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
21. The chapter moved into their new house during the first week in April, 1928. Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
22. Letter from Katharine Noyes to Mabel Howard, May 18, 1929, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
23. Dickover, p. 213.
24. Dickover, p. 03.
25. Ibid., p. 148, 276. The Honors of Epsilon Phi (Arc, Crescent, Circle) were initiated in 1919 in order to recognize especially outstanding members of the fraternity.
26. *Sigma of Alpha Gamma Delta Handbook*, 1934-1935, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
27. Ibid.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 8 Page 36

---

28. *Sigma Sidelights*, May 1936, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
29. *Sigma Sidelights*, March 1939, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
30. Letter from Mabel Howard to Katharine Macy Noyes, December 29, 1929, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
31. Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives. These standards, *Standards for Approved Student Homes*, were "compiled after a study of minimum figures allowed by various scientific and medical groups such as the American Public Health Association, the Medical Corps of the United States Army, etc....," according to Jean Hoskins, the Assistant for Women's Housing.
32. Letter from Jean Hoskins to Mary Hoke, Alpha Gamma Delta President, May 9, 1942, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
33. Report of Committee on Student Welfare and Activities, July 25, 1942, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
34. Letter from S. Earl Thompson to Mrs. M.J. Dorsey, August 13, 1942, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
35. *Sigma Sidelights*, December 1942, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
36. The May 1943 issue of *Sigma Sidelights* included guidelines for alumnae to help with Rush, and noted that it was "absolutely necessary for every Sigma Alumna to respond immediately when asked for recommendations because of war-time restrictions on telegrams and long distance telephone calls."
37. *Sigma Sidelights*, December 1942, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
38. *Sigma Sidelights* December 1943, May 1944, October 1945, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
39. *Sigma Sidelights*, October 1944, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
40. *Illio* 1945, Record Series 41/8/805, University of Illinois Archives. Shi-Ai was a group composed of two sophomore members of each sorority on campus, elected by their own sorority.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 8 Page 37

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41. *Sigma Sidelights*, March 1946, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
42. "AG Delts Help Cerebral Palsy," *The Illigreek*, October 8, 1956, Record Series 41/62/807, University of Illinois Archives.
43. "AG Delts Help Cerebral Palsy" and "Pledge Dances Create Unusual Atmospheres," *The Illigreek*, October 8, 1956, Record Series 41/62/807, University of Illinois Archives.
44. *The Champaign News-Gazette*, June 30, 1954, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
45. *The Champaign News-Gazette*, n.d. 1958, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
46. Personal Communication with Patricia Holm Smith, August 2006.
47. *The Illigreek*, March 3, 1958, Record Series 41/62/807, University of Illinois Archives.
48. *The Illigreek*, March 3, 1958, Record Series 41/62/807, University of Illinois Archives.
49. *The Champaign News-Gazette*, December 16, 1956, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
50. *Illio* 1950, Record Series 41/8/805, University of Illinois Archives.
51. *Illio*, 1961, pg. 342, Record Series 41/8/805, University of Illinois Archives.
52. Report by House Association President Barbara Palmer, c. January 1966, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
53. Ibid.
54. Ibid.
55. *The Champaign News-Gazette*, September 26, 1965, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1; *Illio*, 1966, Record Series 41/8/805, University of Illinois Archives.
56. Report by House Association President Barbara Palmer, c. January 1966, Record Series 41/72/7, Box 1, University of Illinois Archives.
57. Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984), p. 387.
58. Ward Bucher, *Dictionary of Building Preservation* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1996), p. 307.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 8 Page 38

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59. McAlester, p. 388.
60. James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell, *House Styles in America* (New York: Penguin Studio, 1996), p. 227-228.
61. *Sigma of Alpha Gamma Delta Handbook*, pp.1-2.
62. "Sigma," *Alpha Gamma Delta Quarterly*, Vol. XVIII, #4, (November 1927), p. 402.
63. Building Committee correspondence held in the archives of the Sigma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta.
64. George A. Hool and Nathan C. Johnson, editors in chief, *Handbook of Building Construction* (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1920), p. 916.
65. Draft of letter to Arthur Gallion, architect, from Katharine Noyes dated 28 January 1927 in archives of the Sigma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta.
66. Letter to Ralph E. Milman, architect, from George Ramey dated 28 January 1927 in archives of the Sigma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta.
67. Letter to George Ramey, architect, from Ralph Milman dated 15 February 1927 in archives of the Sigma Chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta.
68. Ramey obituary, *The News-Gazette*, 7 August 1961; and the "Architects and Contractors" file at the Champaign County Historical Archives.
69. Villard obituary, *The News-Gazette*, 15 November 1960; and the "Architects and Contractors" file at the Champaign County Historical Archives.
70. Interview with Robert Edwards, architect, by Karen Lang Kummer, September 2008; Laz obituary, *The News-Gazette*, 23 February 1996; and vertical files of the Champaign County Historical Archives.
71. Interview with Jack H. DeAtley by Karen Lang Kummer, December 2008. Jack DeAtley was born on 9 October 1909 and died 3 June 1988; Frank Barber was born 11 September 1913 and died 15 September 1989.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 9 Page 39

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Section number 10 Page 40

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

Lot Two (2) and the South(S) Thirty Seven (37) feet of Lot Three (3) of Assessor's Subdivision of Lot "E" of Assessor's Plat of the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4) of the Southwest Quarter (SW 1/4) of Section Seventeen (17), Township Nineteen (19), North (N) Range (R) Nine (9), East (E) of the Third Principal Meridian, except Lincoln Place.

**Boundary Justification**

The nomination includes the lot historically associated with the Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House at 1106 South Lincoln Avenue, Urbana, Illinois.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois  
Page 41



Location Map of Alpha Gamma Delta House, 1106 South Lincoln Ave., Urbana, Illinois

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois  
Page 42

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Historic Photo, circa 1950

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois**  
Page 43

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**Photographic Documentation - Photo List**

IL\_ChampaignCounty\_Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House (AGD)

1. Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House
2. Champaign County, Illinois
3. Karen Lang Kummer
4. November, 2008
5. Society for the Preservation of Greek Housing, Champaign

Exterior Photos

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD01</b> | Main (west) elevation of chapter house looking southeast               |
| <b>IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD02</b> | Looking due east at main elevation of original chapter house           |
| <b>IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD03</b> | Looking due east at entire main (west) elevation                       |
| <b>IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD04</b> | South elevation of chapter house at southwest corner                   |
| <b>IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD05</b> | South elevation of chapter house from southeast                        |
| <b>IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD06</b> | South elevation of chapter house southeast corner                      |
| <b>IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD07</b> | East (rear) elevation of addition looking due west                     |
| <b>IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD08</b> | East and north elevations of rear looking southwest                    |
| <b>IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD09</b> | North elevation of addition and original service wing looking south    |
| <b>IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD10</b> | East elevation of original chapter house looking southwest             |
| <b>IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD11</b> | North end of east elevation of original chapter house looking due west |
| <b>IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD12</b> | North elevation of original chapter house from northeast corner        |
| <b>IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD13</b> | North elevation of original chapter house from northwest corner        |
| <b>IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD14</b> | North and west elevations of original chapter house                    |
| <b>IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD15</b> | Detail of first story of original chapter house                        |

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity House, Champaign County, Illinois  
Page 44

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- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD16 | Detail of entryway and addition to chapter house     |
| IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD17 | Detail of entry porch and stair tower                |
| IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD18 | Detail of entry door                                 |
| IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD19 | Detail of attic story of tower                       |
| IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD20 | Detail of addition's French doors                    |
| IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD21 | Detail of original casement and decorative brickwork |
| IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD22 | Detail of chapter crest on addition's west elevation |

Interior Photos

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD23 | Entry door   |
| IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD24 | Foyer and Stairhall                                |
| IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD25 | Staircase to basement                              |
| IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD26 | Detail of staircase railing; newel post            |
| IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD27 | Gallery looking south toward Dining Room           |
| IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD28 | Detail of Gallery ceiling center cartouche         |
| IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD29 | Detail of Gallery ceiling corner cartouche         |
| IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD30 | Dining Room looking northwest                      |
| IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD31 | Dining Room door to pantry                         |
| IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD32 | Card Room looking south                            |
| IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD33 | Living Room looking northeast                      |
| IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD34 | Living Room fireplace                              |
| IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD35 | Detail of Living Room fireplace, fraternity crest  |
| IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD36 | Second story, hallway closet detail, looking south |
| IL_ChampaignCounty_AGD37 | Second story, hallway looking north                |

