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 determinations for individual properties and detricts NATION IN THE ACCOMPLETE TO A STATE OF HISTORY OF THE TOWN TO COMPLETE TO BE ACCOMPLETED TO BE ACCOMPLETED. TO BE ACCOMPLETED TO BE ACCOMPLETED

1. Name of Property	
Historic name Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter House	
Other names/site number N/A	
2. Location	
street & number 4510 22 nd Avenue N.E.	not for publication
city or town Seattle	vicinity
State <u>Washington</u> code <u>WA</u> County <u>King</u> code <u>033</u>	zip code98105
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)	36 CFR Part 60. In my property be considered
Signature of certifying official/Title Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
National Park Service Certification	
hereby/certify that this property is:	Date of Action
	4.12.07
determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet	
determined not eligible for the National Register.	
removed from the National Register.	
other (explain:)	

public-local gublic-State site site sites public-Federal structure object structure object 1 Total Name of related multiple property listing: (Enter "NA" if property is not part of a multiple property listing) N/A NONE 6. Functions or Use Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) EDUCATION: Education Related - Housing 7. Description Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) LATE 19 TH AND 20 TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Tudor Revival District 1	Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) X private Category of Pro (Check only one box X building		Number of Resources with (Do not incl. previously listed re-	sources in the count.)	
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A NONE 6. Functions or Use Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) EDUCATION: Education Related - Housing FDUCATION: Education Related - Housing 7. Description Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) LATE 19 TH AND 20 TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Tudor Revival Till isted in the National Register NONE Surrent Functions (Enter categories from instructions) EDUCATION: Education Related - Housing Materials (Enter categories from instructions) (Enter categories from instructions) Enter categories from instructions) ACONCRETE Walls BRICK roof ASPHALT	public-local public-State public-Federal	site structure object	1	buildings sites structure objects Total	
6. Functions or Use Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) EDUCATION: Education Related - Housing FDUCATION: Education Related - Housing Materials (Enter categories from instructions) LATE 19 TH AND 20 TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Tudor Revival FOUCATION: Education Related - Housing Materials (Enter categories from instructions) (Enter categories from instructions) FOUCATION: Education Related - Housing FOUCATION: Education Related - Housing	(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multi	ple property listing.)	listed in the National Register	,	
(Enter categories from instructions) EDUCATION: Education Related - Housing EDUCATION: Education Related - Housing 7. Description Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) LATE 19 TH AND 20 TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Tudor Revival Tudor Revival FOR ASPHALT (Enter categories from instructions)					
7. Description Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) LATE 19 TH AND 20 TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Tudor Revival Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundation CONCRETE walls BRICK roof ASPHALT	Historic Functions				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) LATE 19 TH AND 20 TH CENTURY REVIVALS: foundation CONCRETE Tudor Revival roof ASPHALT					
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) LATE 19 TH AND 20 TH CENTURY REVIVALS: foundation CONCRETE Tudor Revival roof ASPHALT					
(Enter categories from instructions) LATE 19 TH AND 20 TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Tudor Revival roof ASPHALT	7. Description				
LATE 19 TH AND 20 TH CENTURY REVIVALS: foundation CONCRETE Tudor Revival walls BRICK roof ASPHALT					
Tudor Revival walls BRICK roof ASPHALT		Y REVIVALS:	,		
					
		······································	roof ASPHALT		
On let			other		

KING COUNTY, WA

Page 2 of 4

SIGMA KAPPA MU CHAPTER HOUSE

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

SIGMA KAPPA MU CHAPTER HOUSE	KING COUNTY, WA Page 3 of 4
3. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria	Areas of Significance
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property	(Enter categories from instructions)
for National Register listing.)	ARCHITECTURE
x A Property is associated with events that have	SOCIAL HISTORY
made a significant contribution to the broad patterns	
of our history.	
B Property is associated with the lives of persons	
significant in our past.	
x C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics	
of a type, period, or method of construction or	Period of Significance
represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant	1930-1957
and distinguishable entity whose components lack	1/30 1/31
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.)	Significant Dates
main A in an the boxes that apply.	1930
Property is:	Significant Person
A owed by a religious institution or used for	(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
religious purposes.	
D removed from its original location	Cultural Affiliation
B removed from its original location.	N/A
C a birthplace or grave.	
D. a compton	
D a cemetery.	Architect/Builder
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
	Skoog, Joseph Lawrence (Architect)
F a commemorative property.	Puget Construction (Builder – 1962 addition)
G less than 50 years old or achieving significance	
within the past 50 years.	
Narrative Statement of Significance	
Explain the significance of the property.) SEE CONTINUAT	FION SHEET
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibliography	
Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form	.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
preliminary determination of individual listing	State Historic Preservation Office
(36 CFR 67) has been requested	Other State agency
previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National	Federal agency X Local government
Register	University
designated a National Historic Landmark	Other
#	Name of repository: Museum of History
recorded by Historic American Engineering	and Industry; Seattle Public Library
Record#	

10. Geographical	Data					
Acreage of Prope		One Acre				
UTM References (Place additional UTM	M References on a continu	ation sheet.)				
1 10 5 East	52 329 52 ting North	ing	Zone	Easting		Northing
Zone Easi Verbal Boundary	· ·	ing	Zone	Easting		Northing
(Describe the boundar	•	See continua	tion shee	t.		
•	daries were selected.)	See continua			indmark Nomina	ition Report prepared by The
Johnson Partnership.						
name/title Sophia	a Byrd McSherry, Vic	e-President, Puget	Sound A	ssociation	of Sigma Ka	арра
organization Puge	et Sound Association	of Sigma Kappa		date	10/04/2006	(edited by DAHP Jan 07)
street & number	2619 N. Starr St.		t	telephone	253-383-6	5267
city or town	Tacoma		_ state	WA	zip code	98403
Additional Docum						
Submit the following it	ems with the completed for	1:				
Continuation She	ets					
	nap (7.5 or 15 minute se				umerous reso	ources.
Photographs						
Representa	ative black and white p	hotographs of the p	roperty.			
Additional items (Check with the SHPC	or FPO for any additional i	ems.)				
Property Owner	Complete this item at the re	quest of the SHPO or F	PO.)			
name Puget S	Sound Association o	f Sigma Kappa /	c/o Jud:	ith Schwe	eikhardt	
street & number	4227 N.E. 9		telepho			
city or town Sea	ttle	state	TAT A		zip code	98115

KING COUNTY, WA

Page 4 of 4

SIGMA KAPPA MU CHAPTER HOUSE

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet - Side

SIGMA KAPPA Mu CHAPTER HOUSE KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number	 Page 1 of 8			
		-		

Narrative Description

Constructed in 1930, the Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter House in Seattle, Washington is located on the NE corner of 45th Street and 22nd Avenue immediately north of the University of Washington campus. The sorority faces west and is located on a trapezoidal shaped lot amounting to 28,035 square feet. The property is situated at the crest of the hill looking east over what is commonly known as the Montlake Fill area and University Village.

The building is roughly centered on its site which slopes down to the east. Vegetation on site consists of manicured bushes and hedges on the west facade and heavy, dense tree and ground cover on the southern edge of the property. The eastern portion of the site contains a lower terrace that serves as a paved parking lot. Due to extensive vegetative cover on the hillside, the chapter house is an indistinguishable feature when viewed from the east.

The immediate neighborhood is commonly referred to as "Greek Row," with 38 fraternities and sororities located between 17th Avenue N.E. and 22nd Avenue N.E., and between N.E. 45th Street and N.E. 50th Street. Other university-related housing in the immediate area includes Craftsman-style houses that have been converted to shared housing or boarding houses, and some apartment houses.

The eclectic Tudor Revival style Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter House consists of two hiproofed wood-framed brick-veneer buildings connected by two enclosed linking walkways that create a central landscaped courtyard. The original/main building was built in 1930, and comprises two stories, a basement, and an attic floor with dormers. All masonry of the original building is red brick laid mainly in a common bond. The building has a hinged plan with the northern portion running along a north/south line and a southern portion that angles approximately 15° to the southwest to better engage the diagonal angle of the frontage street, N.E. 22nd Avenue. A stair tower, or turret, on the western face serves as the hinge. The original building measures approximately 110' in length north/south and 48' in width.

The addition, built in 1962, is situated to the east of the original building and also has two stories and a dormered attic floor, but as the site slopes away to the east, the basement is daylighted on its eastern face. The plan of the addition is roughly rectangular with the longer sides measuring approximately 85' in length in the

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet - Side

SIGMA KAPPA Mu CHAPTER HOUSE KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number	 Page 2 of 8		

north/south direction and the shorter sides approximately 34' in width. Two links attach the two buildings creating a central courtyard. The north link attaches at the northern ends and the south link attaches at the south end of the perpendicular sections. The glass one-story hallway of the south link has a sloped roof with a central ridge and modern detailing while the north link has an open service porch at ground level, and a hallway, half-timbered with marble chip stucco, on the second floor.

The building is approximately 47' in height from grade to the top of the ridge at the hip roof's highest point. Due to varying widths of the building plan, the main roof ridge steps down from north to south, rotating slightly to the southwest around a conical roofed stair tower or turret. A shallow three-story entrance wing intersects the main hip roof just to the north of the tower providing a prominent entry. The main roof has a pitch of 16-in-12, and the tower roof has a pitch of 22-in-12 and has a small corniced overhang. The roof is covered with dark asphalt composition heavy-tab roofing that has replaced the original cedar shingles. The building has copper gutters and downspouts.

The main or western façade faces 22nd Avenue N.E. The wall on the northern portion of this façade is approximately 21′-6″ in height with two stories of brick masonry laid in a common bond. This wall portion contains eight windows. The northernmost window on the main floor is a large wood-sash double-hung 8-over-12 window. To the south of this window are two horizontally proportioned tripartite wood-sash windows with a central fixed window with leaded glass set in a diamond pattern. On the second level are three 8-over-8 double-hung windows on the northern side and a fixed wood-sash 9-light wood window on the southern side. All of these windows have brick sills and brick soldier course lintels. The original architectural drawings indicate that all of the double-hung windows of this wall section originally had wooden shutters that are no longer present. The roof over this wall section has three small equally spaced, hip-roof dormers with pairs of single-paned aluminum-sash French casement windows, which have replaced the original wood-sash 9-light casement windows.

The central portion of the western façade consists of a brick masonry three-story gable end wall entry projection adjacent to the three-story brick masonry stair tower. The entry projection is distinguished with diagonal diapering brick pattern set

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet - Sto

SIGMA KAPPA MU CHAPTER HOUSE KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

n number7	Page 3 of 8

into the common bond. There are two brick steps leading up to a small brick stoop surrounded by low, 2'-7" high brick masonry walls. The gable end wall features a pointed entry arch with cast dressed stone quoins with a beaded and articulated intrados. The entry is recessed in 4'-8", creating an entry alcove of dressed cast stone. The entry alcove contains an iron and glass pendent light fixture suspended from its ceiling. The entry door is a solid wood-planked rectangular double door with a simple traditional non-original handle and thumb latch. To the north of the entry arch on the gable end wall is a small vertically proportioned diamond-paned wood-sash window with a brick sill and brick soldier course lintel. Above and centered on the entry arch at the second floor level is a tripartite 19-light wood-sash casement window. Immediately above this window on the attic level is a pair of aluminum casement windows centered within the gable. Both the second- and third-level windows have brick sills and brick soldier lintels.

To the south of the entry gable projection is a round stair tower or turret. The tower's masonry is laid in a running bond up to approximately the attic floor level where cast-stone bead molding is laid as a belt course. Above the stringcourse the masonry is accentuated with diagonal diapering brick pattern. At grade is a small half-round arched window with a brick sill and brick arch lintel. Centered on the tower face is a large diamond-paned fixed wood-sash window. This window has cast-stone quoin dressing and a wrought iron faux balconette. To the lower right and upper left of this large window are two small diamond-paned windows with brick sills and brick soldier lintels that light the interior circular stair. Immediately above the cast-stone stringcourse and centered above the large window is a radius-top diamond-paned window that projects above the tower's conical roof with an arched head mould of cast stone. This window also has cast-stone quoin dressings. The tower has a cast-stone crown with regularly spaced cast-stone corbels supporting the tower roof's fluted overhand. At the top of the conical turret is the original weathervane featuring three birds in flight as shown on the architectural drawings.

The southern end of the western façade angles toward the street and is approximately 18'-6" in height. The lower 11' of the wall is composed of brick masonry laid in a common bond. This wall segment contains two large equally spaced 8-over-16 double-hung wood windows with brick sills and brick soldier lintels. The original architectural drawings indicate that these windows had wooden shutters that have been removed. The upper portion of the wall projects slightly supported

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet - Sto

SIGMA KAPPA Mu CHAPTER HOUSE KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

widely spaced wood corbels with an intervening wood molding and a decorative wood mold banding. Above the banding the façade is half-timbered with brick noggin. The noggin is laid in various patterns including herringbone, basket weave and running bond. There are two equally spaced gable roof dormers in this upper wall section. The dormer gables feature trefoil cut bargeboards. The dormers contain French casement windows with 8-pane operable sashes.

The southern portion of the east façade is similar to what is present on the eastern and southern facades of this end of the building, with brick masonry on the lower portion of the wall and half-timbers with noggin on the upper portion. Approximately 10' from the southeastern corner of the building the upper floor projects out approximately 7', creating a covered terrace with square rough-hewn timber columns supporting. There are two glazed French doors with transom windows on the main level accessing the building's main living room; one is outside of the covered terrace and the other is within the covered terrace area. A large plate-glass window is centered between the doors. The second floor has tow 8-light casement windows and two double-hung 8-over-8 wood-sash windows. At the attic story are three hip-roofed dormers with French casement windows, one at the southeastern corner and two on the projected section of the roof.

The central section of the eastern façade has a three-story hip-roof projection located at the apex of the hinge. The southernmost enclosed walkway linking the two buildings intersects the façade on the main floor at this projection. Above the link there are two pairs of 12-light casement windows with brick sills and brick soldier lintels, one pair on each floor. At the southern end of this central section of roof and near the ridge is a brick masonry utility chimney.

The main floor of the courtyard section of the eastern façade has three equally spaced 8-over-12 wood double-hung windows with brick sills and brick soldier course lintels that provide light for the building's original dining room, which is now used as a sitting room. A large bay window with a fluted copper roof is located to the northern side of these double-hung windows. The bay originally provided light to a breakfast room and has a 35-light wood-sash central window and flanking 6-over-9 wood-sash double-hung windows with brick sills and brick soldier course lintels. Immediately above the three main-floor double-hung windows are three 9-over8 wood-sash double-hung windows with brick sills and brick soldier course lintels

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet - Sto

SIGMA KAPPA MU CHAPTER HOUSE KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number	 Page 5 of 8		

lighting second-floor rooms. Another 8-over-8 wood-sash double-hung window is centered over the larger main-floor bay window. A two-story enclosed walkway link meets the façade immediately north of the bay providing access to mid-level landings in a service stairwell.

To the north of the link is a small section of wall with an 8-over-12 wood-sash double-hung window on the main floor and an 8-over-8 wood-sash double-hung window on the second floor. Both have brick sills and brick soldier course lintels.

The attic story of the entire northern section of the building has three hip-roofed dormers, one large dormer with six aluminum-sash casement windows, and two small flanking dormers with French aluminum-sash casement windows. At the northern end of the roof near the ridge is a brick masonry utility chimney.

The northern façade of the original building is symmetrically arranged. On the main floor there are two 8-over-12 wood-sash double-hung windows flaking a smaller central vertically oriented 8-light wood-sash casement window. On the second floor above these windows there is a similar arrangement of two 8-over-8 double-hung wood-sash windows on either side of another central vertical 8-light wood casement window. All six windows have brick sills and brick soldier course lintels. In the attic hip roof are two symmetrically spaced dormers with aluminum-sash casement windows that have replaced the original 9-light wood casement windows.

The south link to the 1962 addition steps down seven risers from the main floor of the original building to the main floor of the east addition. This walkway link is mostly glazed with aluminum commercial windows. The link now has a shallow frame roof covered with composition roofing, replacing an earlier flat roof. The north walkway link is connected to the original building at a mid-floor stair landing and connects to the addition on the second floor. The exterior walls of this link have a simplified half-timbering with marble chip infill. Beneath the north link is a service porch, which is partially screened by a brick masonry wall that visually encloses the central courtyard. The service porch leads into a kitchen and storage area on the northern end of the addition.

The addition is located approximately 35' to the east of the original building. The addition has two stories and a dormered attic floor, plus a daylight basement. The

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet - Sto

SIGMA KAPPA Mu CHAPTER HOUSE KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number	 Page 6 of 8		

addition measures approximately 85' in length in the north/south direction and approximately 34' in width. The building is wood-frame with a brick masonry veneer. The basement exterior walls are reinforced concrete. The building has a steep hip roof pitched at 16-in-12. The roof is covered with dark asphalt composition heavy-tab roofing. The roof flares slightly at the roof overhang and has metal gutters. All windows in the addition are aluminum-sash casements unless otherwise noted.

The western façade wall rises approximately 19' from the courtyard grade to the eave line. The total height from the courtyard grade to the top of the ridge is 40'. This façade has the connecting walkway links meeting it at main floor level at the southern end and at the second floor on the northern end. Immediately to the north of the southern walkway are two large openings that provide light to the interior of the current dining room. The southern opening is a large fixed window with a transom light and the northern opening is an aluminum storefront French door with a glazed transom. To the north of the large openings are two additional casement windows. The second floor of this elevation has a row of five equally spaced window units, each with a pair of windows, with one operable casement and upper transom light. The attic floor has three equally spaced hip-roof dormers, each with a simple tripartite window, the outer windows being operable casements. A brick masonry utility chimney protrudes through the roof slightly to the south of the northern ridge break and near the ridge.

The southern façade has a projecting hip-roofed stair tower at its western side. The stair tower has three vertically oriented windows at the three landing levels. Each window consists of one fixed sash and an operable casement. The upper window extends up through the eave line, creating a shallow roof dormer. The eastern portion of the façade has a cantilevered concrete perimeter walkway that serves as a balcony for the current dining room. The basement wall beneath the walkway is recessed, creating a covered terrace for the basement activity room. The basement façade has two large window openings and two sets of doors identical to those on the east façade on the lower and main floor eastern portion of the southern façade. Above those are two windows with fixed sashes at the bottom third and right sides, and casements to the left side. The stair tower has three aluminum-frame casement windows running up bottom to top. This façade has two wall openings: the easternmost opening is a large fixed window and the westernmost opening is an

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet - Sto

SIGMA KAPPA MU CHAPTER HOUSE KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number	7	Page 7 of 8	

aluminum storefront French door with a glazed transom. The main floor also has two wall openings with the same arrangement as the basement level. The second floor has two equally spaced window units, each with a pair of windows, with one operable casement and upper transom light. The attic floor has one centrally placed hip-roof dormer with a simple tripartite window, the out windows being operable casements.

The eastern façade is three stories, including the daylight basement, and a dormered attic. The basement level has the recessed covered terrace with a single door from the southern stair tower. North of the recess is a group of three large wall openings, the outer two being large fixed windows with transom lights, and the central being an aluminum storefront French door with a glazed transom. To the north of this opening group is a row of three window units, each with a pair of windows with one fixed light and one operable casement. On the second level is a cantilevered balcony running the entire width of the building and featuring a wrought iron railing with the Sigma Kappa symbol in it. The southern portion of this level has a group of four large openings, the two southernmost and the northernmost being large fixed windows with transom lights, and the remaining opening being an aluminum storefront French door with a glazed transom. These openings provide light for the current dining room. The northern portion of the main floor wall has three equally spaced window units with operable French casement windows that open into the kitchen. The second floor has a row of seven equally spaced window units, each with a pair of windows, with one operable casement and an upper transom light. The attic floor has three equally spaced hip-roof dormers, each with a simple tripartite window, the outer windows being operable casements. A brick masonry utility chimney protrudes through the roof slightly to the north of the center of the roof and near the ridge.

The northern façade has a projecting hip-roof stair tower with two large aluminum windows centered and stacked one over the other at the stair landings. There is an egress door on the lower right portion of the stair tower. The eastern portion of the façade has three windows units, one on each floor level. The lower two units are a pair of windows, each with an operable casement, and the upper unit is also a pair of windows, with one operable casement, but it also has upper transom light.

The plan of the 1962 addition is basically a rectangle with circulation/egress stair towers projecting at the southern and northern ends. The basement floor level

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet - Sto

SIGMA KAPPA Mu CHAPTER HOUSE KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number	 Page 8 of 8		

contains a recreation room with doors accessing a small terrace at the building's southeastern corner, service employee's bedrooms, bathrooms, and storage rooms. The ceiling to floor height is approximately 10'. The main floor level, accessed from the original building via the southern enclosed walkway, is devoted to food service, with a large dining room on the southern end and a commercial kitchen on the northern end. The floor to ceiling height on the main floor is approximately 10'. The second floor level has ten dormitory rooms and a bathroom accessed by a double-loaded corridor. The floor to ceiling height for this floor is approximately 8'. The attic third floor is an open-room sleeping porch with a floor to ceiling height in the central section of 9'-6".

Inside the sorority is a contrasting formal space with Colonial Revival detailing. Architectural details are refined in the public spaces on the first floor. They include decorative moldings around doors and windows, egg & dart style crown molding and classical style fireplace surrounds.

Walls and ceilings are finished with smooth plaster and the floors are covered with mainly wall to wall carpet. Unique to the entry hall is an open face circular stairs which lead directly to the second floor study areas and the third floor sleeping porch. It has wood risers and treads and a brass metal baluster. Wood three-paneled doors, some painted and others left natural, are found throughout the sorority. All have Colonial Revival style hardware.

Unique among Sigma Kappa Chapter houses, the Mu Chapter House has a triangular shaped meeting room in the basement. It has plaster walls and ceilings with a tile floor. The floor plan and interior spaces remain unaltered.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet - Sto

SIGMA KAPPA Mu CHAPTER HOUSE KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number	8	Page 1 of 7

Statement of Significance

The Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter House in Seattle, Washington is historically significant under criterion "A" for its direct association to the social history of the University of Washington. The Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter house represents the important role that was played by other sororities and fraternities on the campus during the 1920s and 1930s to the present. The sorority also meets National Register Criterion "C" as a property that embodies the distinctive characteristics of many Greek sorority and fraternity houses near the University of Washington. The sorority, completed in 1930, was designed by Seattle architect Joseph Skoog, and is a good example of a Greek house designed in the Tudor vein. The building's construction and continuous use as a sorority house justifies a period of significance extending from 1930 to 1957.

History of Fraternities and Sororities in the United States

The first fraternity in the United States was founded at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, in 1776. This group was known as Phi Beta Kappa, and was a secret society formed for social and literary purposes. In 1779, branches of Phi Beta Kappa were established at Yale and Harvard. Despite disruptions during the Revolutionary War, other fraternal groups were established and quickly spread throughout eastern and southern colleges the society survived and eventually expanded to other schools.

During the Victorian era, women were just beginning to have a real presence on college campuses. Sororities became a means for them to support and encourage one another. The first women's fraternity was founded in 1870, at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. Early on the women's groups were modeled on the earlier fraternity system created for men and were similar in terms of government and administration as well as criteria for membership. However, sororities were more likely then fraternities to support charitable or community causes and have traditionally been associated with this type of work.

In the early days of the fraternal system, individual chapters were independent. There was little formal organization at a regional or national level, and chapters were sometimes unified by nothing more than a common name and motto. Gradually, a more centralized model began to emerge. One chapter, usually the oldest, was chosen as the "Grand" chapter. "This chapter was...to be the governing body of the

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet - Side

SIGMA KAPPA Mu CHAPTER HOUSE KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

fraternity, subject only to the directions of the assembly of delegates from the chapters, termed conventions, and to preserve and maintain some sort of settled policy in the administration of fraternity affairs." By about 1870, however, fraternities discarded this system and replaced the grand chapters with boards of alumni, still subject to the annual or semi-annual conventions. The groups of members located at various colleges or universities are known as chapters, and they also have an additional Greek letter name. This name may denote the order in which they joined the national group, or it may be a random designation.

Fraternities and sororities generally employ a great deal of symbolism in their customs and practices. A fraternity usually has a badge, which is often worn by members as pin or pledge pin. They also have distinctive colors, flowers, banners, coats of arms, and other symbolic insignia. Sigma Kappa, for example, uses the serpent and dove as symbols and its coat of arms features the dove, serpent, and violet.

Houses were originally built in two types, the lodge, which was used only for meeting purposes and the clubhouse/ chapter house, which contained living space as well as common rooms. The chapter house became the more popular model of the two. The construction of chapter houses was a popular endeavor for alumni members, who often oversaw fund-raising, design and construction. Chapter houses were quite common by the early 1900s, and had become a typical sight on the fringes of college and university campuses.²

History of Fraternal Societies at the University of Washington

The first Greek society at the University of Washington was the Sigma Nu Fraternity started in 1896. By 1902, seven fraternity houses were established at the University of Washington. The twelve houses that existed in 1908, were all north of NE 45th Street and west of 15th Avenue NE. Most of the early houses were "modest frame one and two-story residences."³

¹ Ibid., 17-18.

² William Raymond Baird, Baird's Manual of American College Fraternities: A Descriptive Analysis of the Fraternity System in the Colleges of the United States (New York, NY: College Fraternity Publishing Co., 9th ed., 1920.)
3 Lawrence Kreisman, "Frat Row: Students Find Home Away From Home on a Gracious Boulevard;" Pacific Magazine, Seattle Times/ Seattle Post-Intelligencer, February 12, 1989: p. 22.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet - Side

SIGMA KAPPA Mu CHAPTER HOUSE KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number	8	Page 3 of 7		

When the University Park Addition came on the market, the Greek societies began to purchase sites there. The first was Kappa Sigma Fraternity in 1909, followed the next year by both Gamma Phi Beta and Pi Beta Phi sororities who purchased lots on 17th Avenue NE. By 1917, a "Greek Row" had started to develop along what is now NE 17th Avenue, and what was then called University Boulevard. It had been paved and landscaped in 1909, for the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition. In 1917, the Boulevard was renamed 17th Avenue NE, and during this period Horse Chestnut trees were planted in memory of the men who had died in WWI.⁴

Sigma Kappa, Mu Chapter

The Sigma Kappa (Σ K) sorority was founded in 1874 at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. It was created by five women: Mary Caffrey Low Carver, Elizabeth Gorham Hoag, Ida Mabel Fuller Pierce, Frances Elliott Mann Hall, and Louise Helen Coburn. Since its founding, the sorority has initiated more than 141,800 members worldwide and created 105 active college chapters.

The sorority's colors are lavender and maroon. The official flower is the violet and the jewel the pearl. The sorority's symbols are the dove and the heart. Sigma Kappa's open motto is "One Heart, One Way." The membership badge is represented by a triangle, which is not an official symbol of Sigma Kappa but is often represented along with the official symbols of the heart and the dove.

The Mu Chapter of Sigma Kappa Sorority was founded at the University of Washington on April 30, 1910. It was the twelfth chapter of the sorority and the second chapter established on the West Coast. The chapter at the University of California, Berkley, was founded five days earlier. The sorority's chapter at Oregon State University was founded in 1918, Washington State University chapter in 1921, and the chapter at the University of Oregon in 1928.

In 1909, with the assistance of Vera Brown and Jessie Pepper Padelford, fourteen women formed the "Altheims" with the sole purpose to petition Sigma Kappa to form a Sigma Kappa Chapter at the University of Washington. Brown was a member of the University of Illinois" Theta Chapter who had transferred to the University of

⁴ Kreisman, "Frat Row," p. 20.

NPS Form 10-900a (Rev. 8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet - Side

SIGMA KAPPA MU CHAPTER HOUSE KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number	8	Page 4 of 7	

Washington in her sophomore year, and Padelford was an Sigma Kappa Alpha Chapter alumni – the Alpha Chapter being the sorority's original chapter founded at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. The following year the chapter's charter was granted. Padelford, became a life-long advisor to Mu Chapter, and was the wife of Frederick Morgan Padelford, the chair of the English Department from 1901 to 1918, and dean of the Graduate school from 1918 to 1942. The Padelfords' home was a short distance from campus and their home was a frequent meeting place for Sigma Kappa collegiate and alumnae women.

At first, Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter members lived in a small, furnished house near the campus on what is now known as University Way. From then until the summer of 1919, the chapter moved four times. In April 1917, the Puget Sound Association of Sigma Kappa Sorority (a Washington non-profit corporation) was formed to hold property, which at the time consisted of the Sigma Kappa Lodge on Puget Sound, which was given to the sorority by Mr. and Mrs. Oliver P. Anderson as a memorial to their daughter Dorothy Louise, who died in 1912. In 1919, the corporation purchased a fourteen-room house at 4732 21st Avenue NE to house the chapter's collegiate members. The chapter soon outgrew this house and began raising funds to purchase the property at 4510 22nd NE with the intention of building a new chapter house.

The property eventually was purchased in 1926 and in 1929 the corporation hired architect Joseph L. Skoog, to design the new chapter house. Skoog was the husband of a Mu alumna and at the chapter's request he included many details in the design of the building which were of special symbolic significance to the sorority.

Joseph Lawrence Skoog

Joseph Lawrence Skoog was born in Washington on September 27, 1893. His father, a Swedish immigrant moved his family to Alaska around 1900, where he became a prominent building contractor specializing in canneries. Apparently Skoog disappointed his father by not continuing with the family business, but instead returned to Seattle around 1916, to study architecture at the University of Washington. Male at the University, he headed the architectural student

⁵ Skoog, Joseph Jr. Telephone interview with Larry Johnson, July 20, 2005.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet - Side

SIGMA KAPPA Mu CHAPTER HOUSE KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number	8	Page 5 of 7			

organization, called the Atelier. During WWI, he was drafted into the army, serving as a pilot in the U.S. Signal Corps. It is unclear whether Skoog received his architectural degree, but he did receive his architectural license (#225) on April 7, 1920.

His skill as a designer and draftsman was apparent. During most of the 1920s, Skoog worked for the prominent Metropolitan Building Company in Seattle, under the direction of architect Robert C. Reamer. While there under Reamer's tutelage, Skoog reportedly worked on the Olympic Hotel (1924), the Fifth Avenue Theater (1925-26), and the Lake Quinault Lodge (1926). During that time, Skoog designed his own house at 1855 Shelby Street in the Montlake neighborhood in 1926. In the late 1920s, Skoog worked briefly with Edwin Ivey, designing the Ferry Investment Co. Building (1929-30).

In the 1930s, due to the general shortage of commissions caused by the Depression, Skoog lost his house and his family moved frequently. For a time, reportedly they resided in the Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter House as caretakers. By 1938, the economy had rebounded and Skoog was awarded the contact to design the Sigma Kappa Alpha Gamma Chapter House in Pullman at Washington State University. 9

During World War II, Skoog worked on the barracks at the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station. After the war he designed grocery stores for local businessman John Burkheimer, who built and leased the stores to the A & P Tea Company. Skoog later became Burkheimer's partner in some of these ventures. Skoog's stores were well-lighted and organized, and were considered somewhat significant in the development of the modern retail grocery store. Other known work includes a large factory complex for the Elmer & Moody Woodwork Company at the base of Queen Anne in Seattle (1949). Skoog retired from architectural practice in the mid-1960s. He died in Seattle just shy of his 91st birthday on September 13, 1984.

⁶ David Rash, letter to Larry Johnson, August 21, 2005.

⁷ Jeffrey Karl Ochsner, ed., *Shaping Seattle Architecture: A Historical Guide to Architects* (Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 1994) p_p.187, 189.

⁸ Ochsner, *Shaping Seattle Architecture*, p. 345.

⁹ Judie Schwiekardt, personal communication with Ellen Mirro, September 5, 2005.

¹⁰ Skoog _{1r} , July 20, 2005.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet - Sto

SIGMA KAPPA Mu CHAPTER HOUSE KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number	8	Page 6 of 7				

Skoogs plans for the new chapter house were presented to the chapter and alumni in January 1929. The Sigma Kappa newsletter, the <u>Triangle</u>, called the building "French Country style". It was to have fifteen study rooms, a guest room, a sleeping porch and bath on the second and third floors. Kitchen, breakfast room, living room and dining rooms occupied the first floor. The chapter hall was located in a unique triangular shaped room in the basement, which also housed servants' quarters and storage rooms. The chapter was especially enthused about the location of the sorority at the extreme east end of the fraternity district.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held in April 1930, and Mu Chapter moved into the completed chapter house in September of that year. For the next 30+ years, members continued to use the chapter house with little alterations to the space.

The construction of the Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter House is representative of the growth of Greek system at the University of Washington during the 1920s and 1930s. A majority of the fraternities and sororities date from this period and most of the chapter houses like the Sigma Kappa House were architect designed. The buildings included Sigma Nu (1916) by Ellsworth Storey, Zeta Psi (1927) and Zeta Tau Alpha (1929) by Arthur Loveless, Chi Psi (1926-27) by Stuart & Wheatley, Phi Gamma Delta (1928-29) by Mellor & Meigs with J. Lister Holmes, Theta Chi (1932) by Walter Lund, Delta Chi (1922) and Psi Upsilon (1924) by Bebb and Gould, and Pi Beta Phi (1932-1935) by William J. Bain, Sr. Between 1920 and 1931, thirty-five new Greek chapter houses were built in the Greek Row area just north of the University of Washington campus.

While the early chapter houses often had been built of wood, by the 1920s most were brick-faced edifices, many designed in the Tudor and Collegiate Gothic styles. The use of the styles may have been the result of urging by University President Henry Suzzallo, who in 1920 specifically "encouraged the use of Tudor Gothic or University Gothic style in new construction in the University District." ¹¹

Over the years the Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter House has been called a variety of architectural styles including a "free, Romantic interpretation of Collegiate Gothic" 12

¹¹ Kreisman, "Frat Row," p. 23

¹² Johnston, "Row Show," p 32-36

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet - Side

SIGMA KAPPA Mu CHAPTER HOUSE KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number	8	Page 7 of 7	

and "French Norman...Tudor Revival."¹³ The reality is that the building is an eclectic mix of a variety of styles or sub-styles of the Tudor vein. Gothic elements are found in the pointed arch entry with its steep gable, polychromatic brick diapering, ogeecut bargeboards on the southwest dormers and cast stone window and door surrounds.¹⁴ The French Norman style details are reflected in round stair tower, the leaded-glass windows, and the steep pitched hipped roof.

This free interpretation of the Tudor Revival style is based on medieval English and French designs of the 15th and 16th centuries. The original designs range in execution from the simple thatched roof cottage of a common farmer to the grand manor house of a wealthy family. In the 1920s and 1930, a revival of the Tudor style occurred. The revival eventually took on political significance, celebrating England's victory in WWI. Many of the prosperous families who had been in the United States for generations built English Tudor style homes to emphasize their Anglo-Saxon roots. For those who didn't have genuine British roots, the Tudor style became a symbol of aspirations. For others, like the Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter, the style represented a way to create an instant sense of history.

Due to growth at the chapter, in October 1957, the Puget Sound Association of Sigma Kappa purchased the property east of the chapter house for additional expansion of their facilities. In 1962 they hired Skoog to design an addition to his 1930 sorority house, the Jessie Pepper Padelford addition. The architectural compatible addition, constructed by the Puget Construction Company, was completed in 1962, at a cost of \$160,000. It housed additional dormitory space on the second floor, a new kitchen and dining facility on the 1st floor, and a recreation room and storage facilities in the basement. Skoog, at this time was 68 years old, and was at the end of his career. The addition may have been his last project.

¹³ Booth and Wilson, Carl F. Gould p.77

¹⁴ John Poppeliers with S. Allen Chambers and Nancy B. Schwartz, What Style Is It? ($_{Washington\ D.C.:}$ Preservation Press, 1981) $_{n.18}$.

1989.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet - Side

SIGMA KAPPA Mu CHAPTER HOUSE KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number 9 Page 1 of 2
Bibliography:
Baird, William Raymond. Baird's Manual of American College Fraternities: A Descriptive Analysis of the Fraternity System in the Colleges of the United States. New York, NY: College Fraternity Publishing. 9th ed., 1920.
Booth, William T., and William H. Wilson. <i>Carl F. Gould: A Life in Architecture and the Arts</i> . Seattle, WA: The University of Washington Press, 1995.
Burchard, John and Albert Bush-Brown. <i>The Architecture of America: A Social and Cultural History</i> . Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co., 1961.
Johnston, Norman. "Row Show." Columns, September 2001: pp. 32-36.
Johnston, Norman. <i>The Fountain and the Mountain: The University of Washington Campus</i> 1895-1995. Woodinville, WA: Documentary Book Publishers, 1995.
Jordan, R. Furneaux. <i>A Concise History of Western Architecture</i> . London: Thames and Hudson, 1969.
Kinne, Emma Elizabeth, ed. <i>The History of Sigma Kappa Sorority 1874-1924</i> . Memasha, WI George Banta Publishing Co., 1924.

Kreisman, Lawrence. *Apartments by Anhalt.* Seattle, WA: Seattle Office of Urban Conservation, 1978.

Kreisman, Lawrence. "Frat Row: Students Find Home Away From Home on a Gracious

Boulevard," Pacific Magazine, Seattle Times/ Seattle Post-Intelligencer, February 12,

OR: Timber Press, 2005.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet - Sign

SIGMA KAPPA MU CHAPTER HOUSE KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number 9 Page 2 of 2
Ochsner, Jeffrey Karl, ed. <i>Shaping Seattle Architecture</i> : <i>A Historical Guide to Architects.</i> Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 1994.
Perkins, Lillian M. <i>The History of Sigma Kappa, 1874-1974</i> . Published by Sigma Kappa Sorority, 1974.
Poppeliers, John, with S. Allen Chambers, and Nancy B. Schwartz. What Style Is It? Washington D.C.: Preservation Press, 1981.
Quinn, Ruth. Weaver of Dreams: The Life and Architecture of Robert C. Reamer. Montana: Leslie and Ruth Quinn Publishers, 2004.
Skoog, Joseph Jr. Telephone interview with Larry Johnson, July 20, 2005.
Schweikhardt, Judith. History of Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter. Unpublished, 2005.
Shepardson, Francis W., ed. <i>Baird's Manual of American College Fraternities: A descriptive Analysis with a Detailed Account of Each Fraternity</i> . 12th ed., Menasha, WI: Collegiate Press, George Banta Publishing Co., 1930.

Swope, Caroline T. Classic Houses of Seattle: High Style to Vernacular 1870-1950. Portland,

Walker, Lester. American Shelter. Woodstock, NY: Overlook Press, 1996.

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet - Side

SIGMA KAPPA Mu CHAPTER HOUSE KING COUNTY COUNTY, WASHINGTON

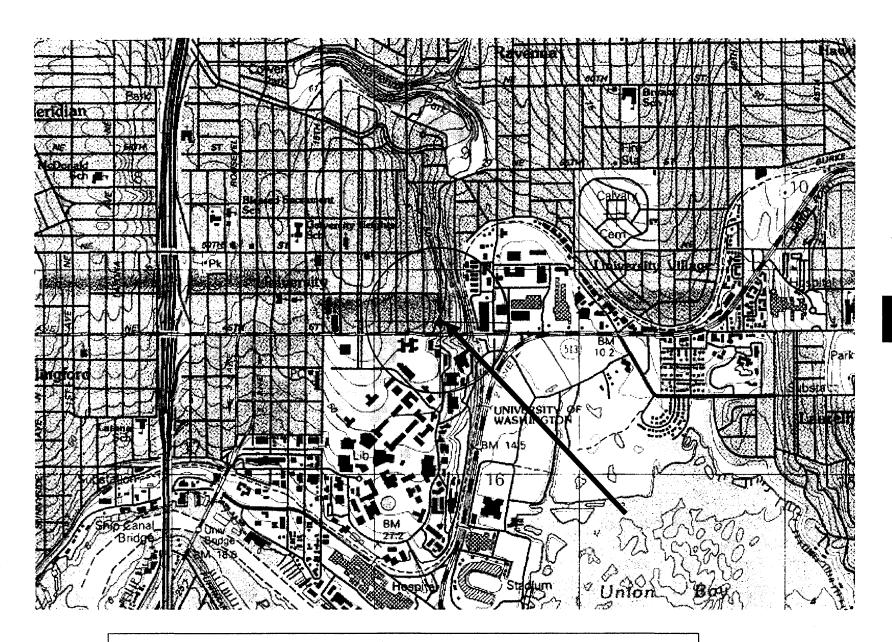
Section number	10	Page 1 of 1	

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located at 4510 22nd Avenue N.E. in Seattle, King County, Washington. It is legally described as Lots 1-5, and portions of lots 1, 2 and 3 lying east of 22nd Avenue N.E. together with lots 4-5 less portions thereof for N.E. 45th Street, Block 4, Campus Addition, Seattle, King County, Washington.

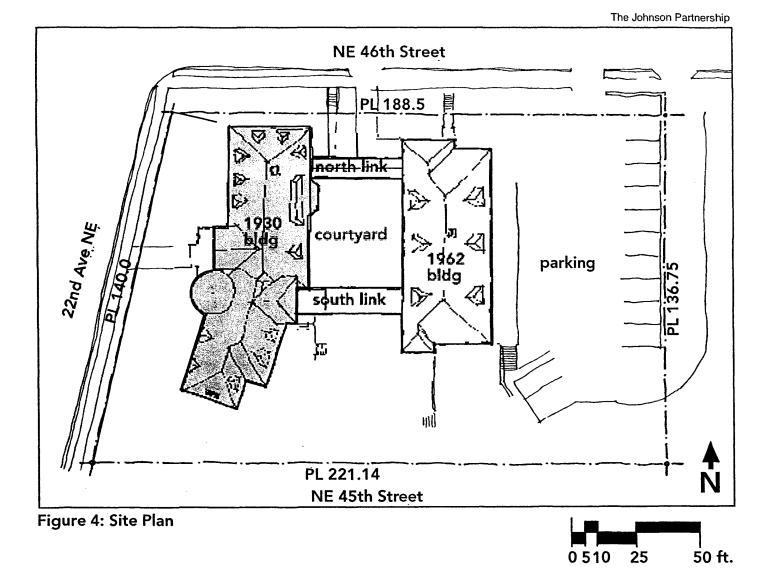
Boundary Justification

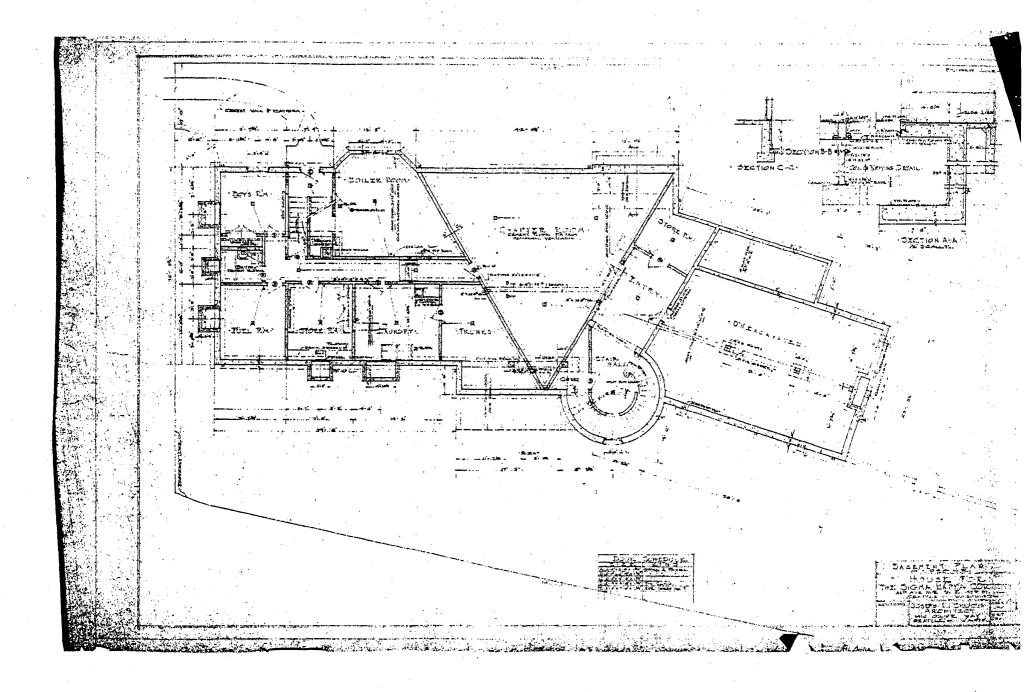
The nominated property encompasses the entire urban tax lot that is occupied by the Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter House.

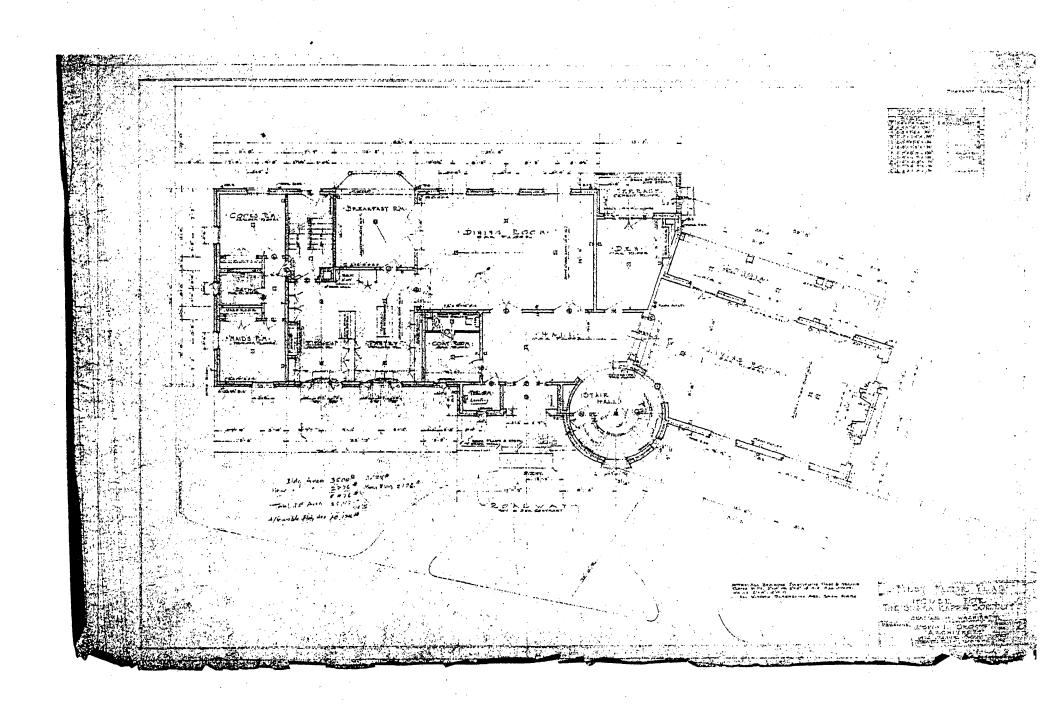


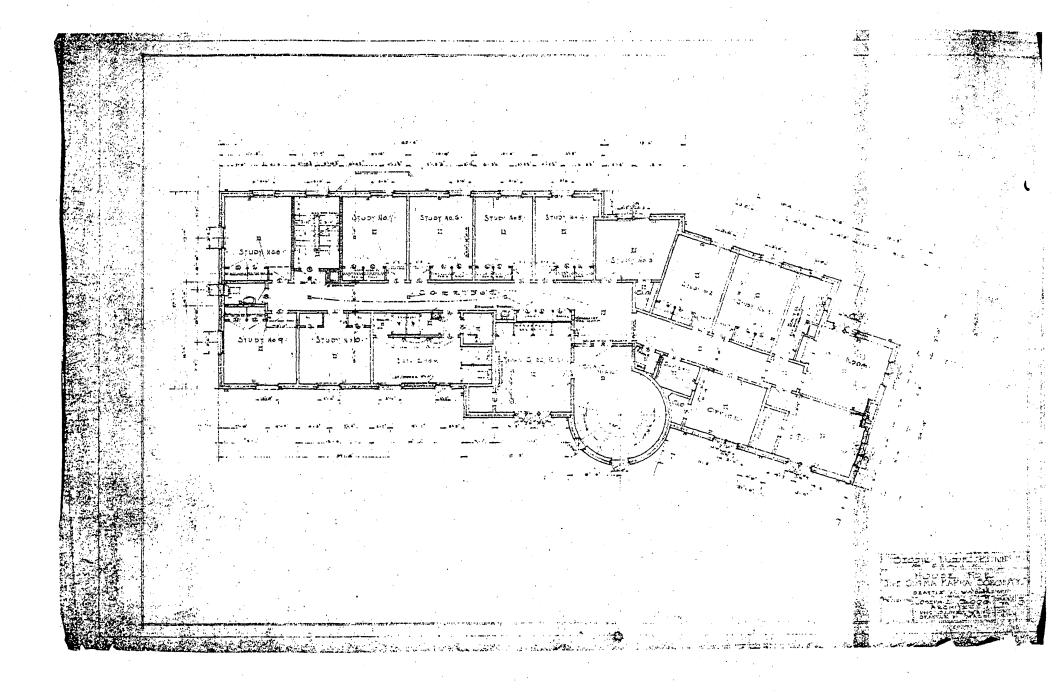
Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter House: Seattle, WA

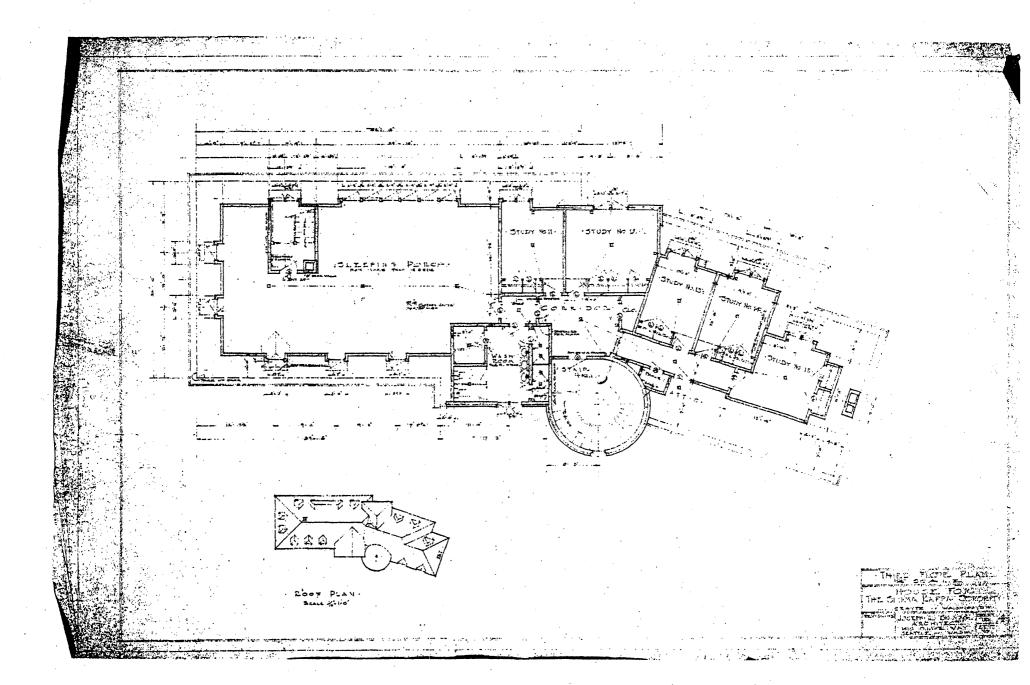
UTM: ZONE 10 552329 E 5278734 N - Seattle USGS Quad

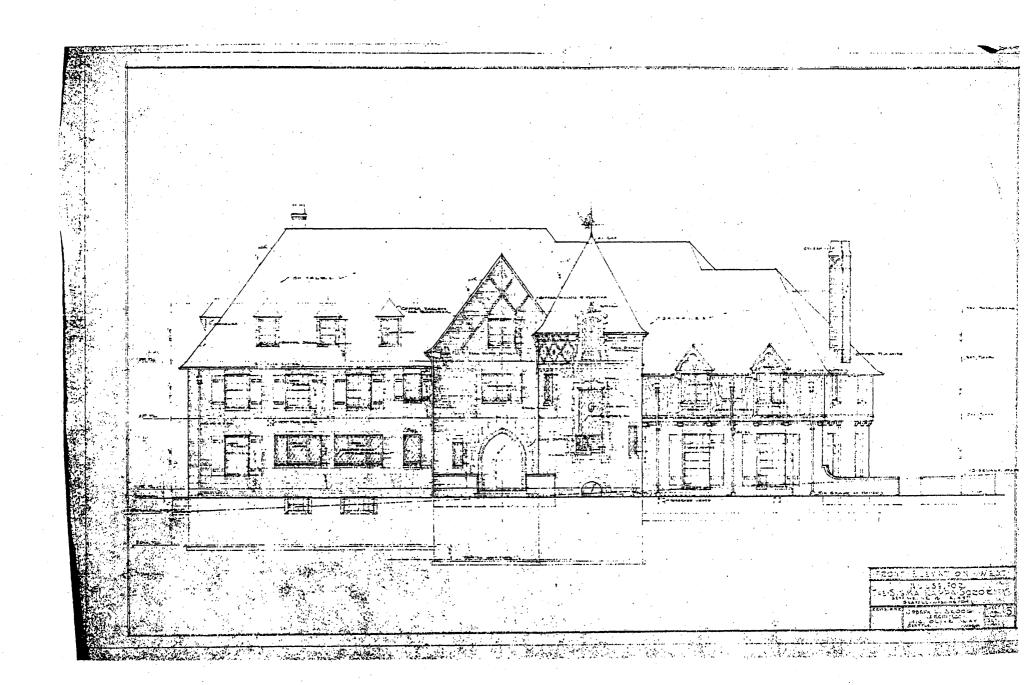


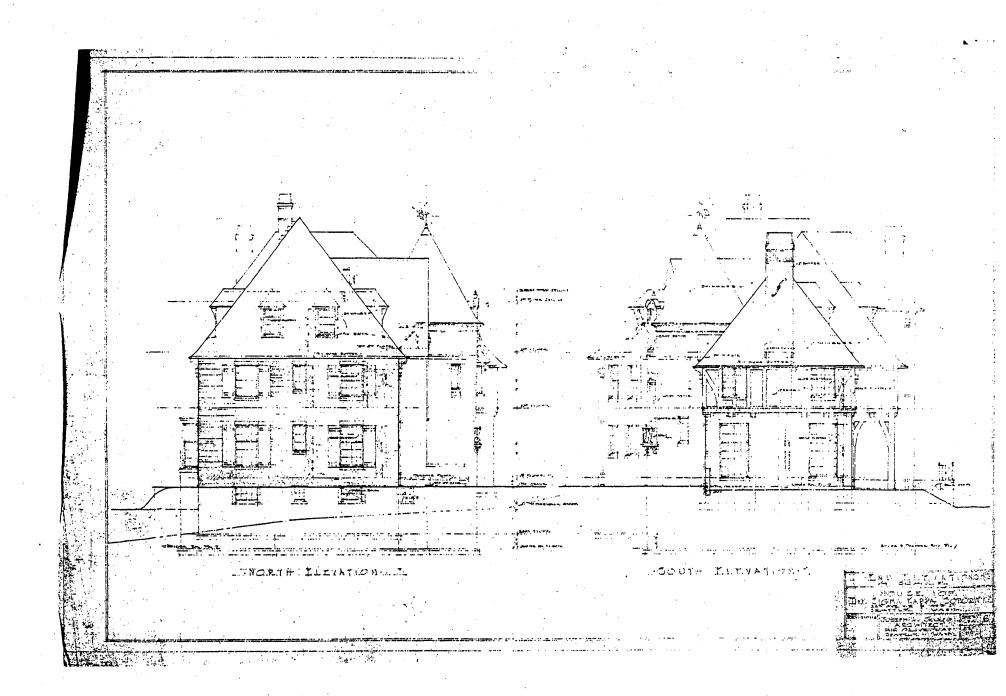


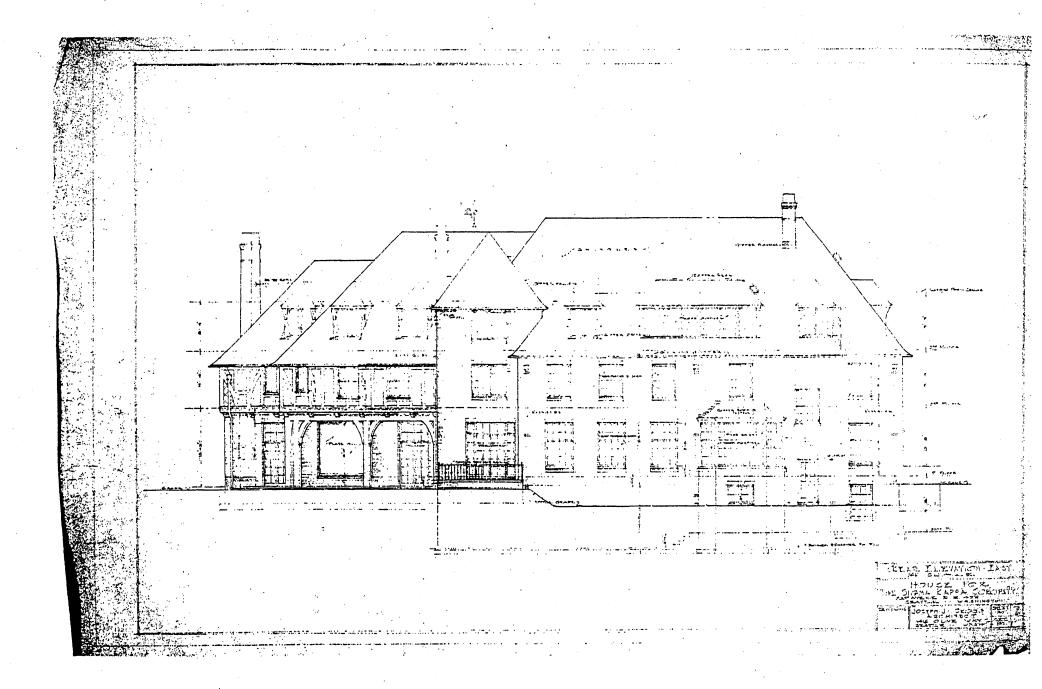


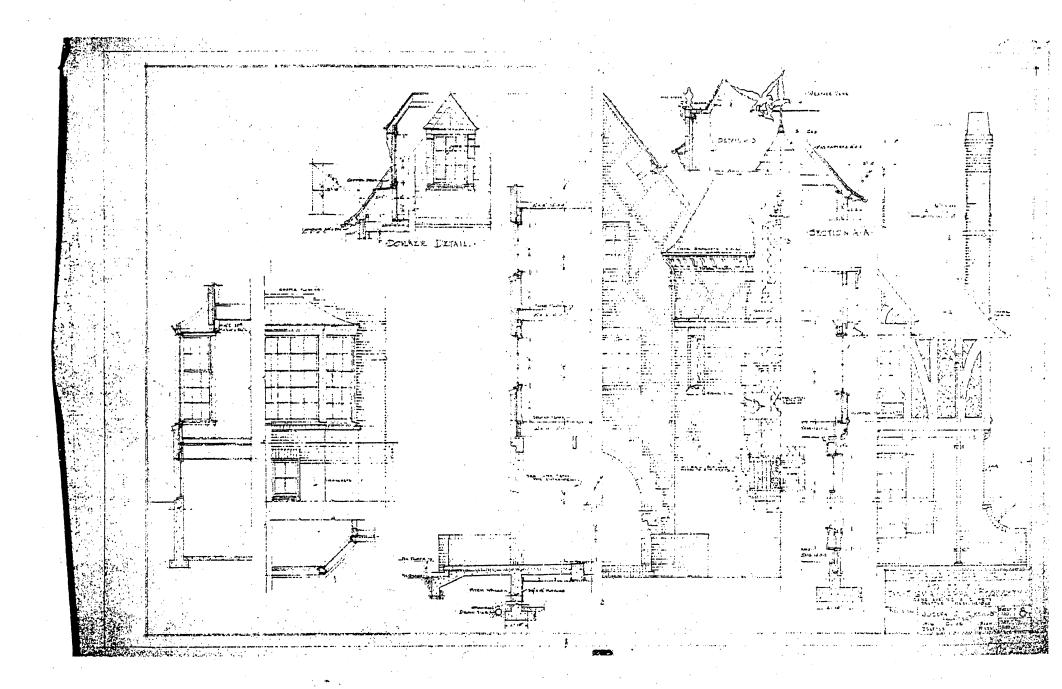


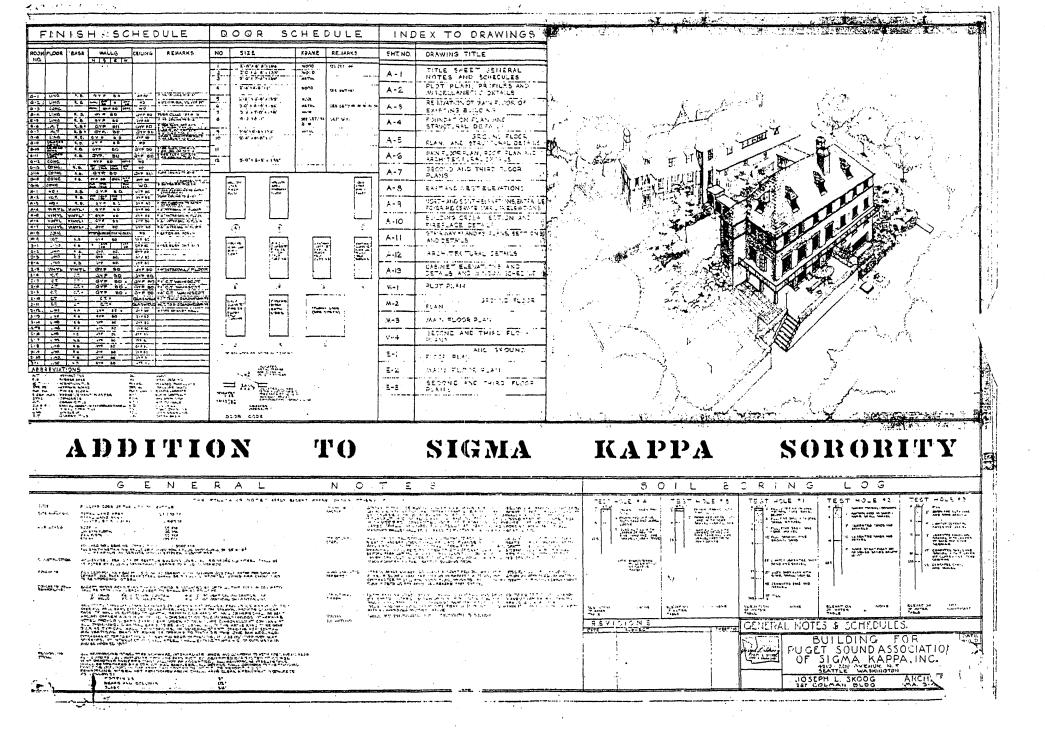


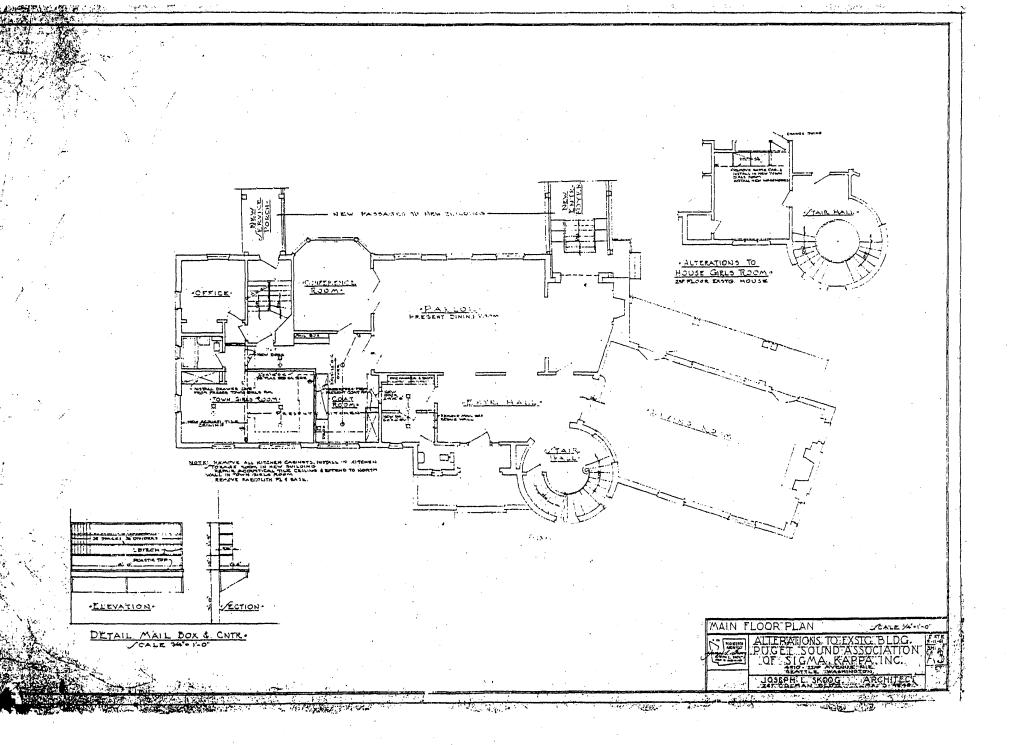


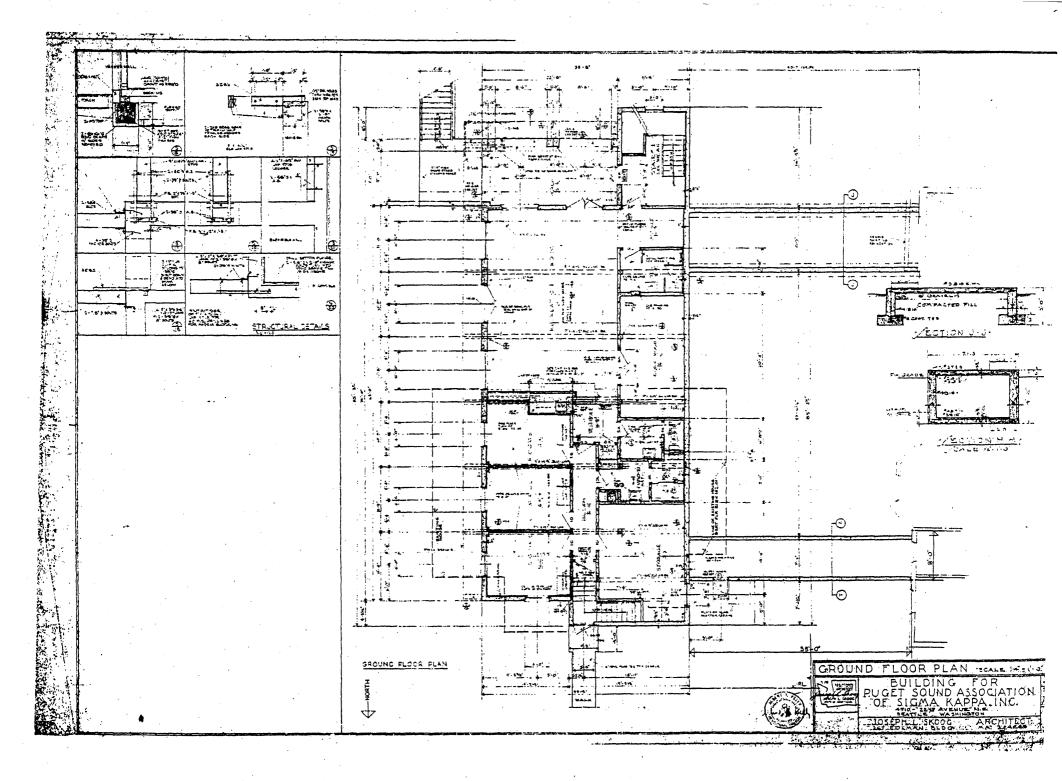


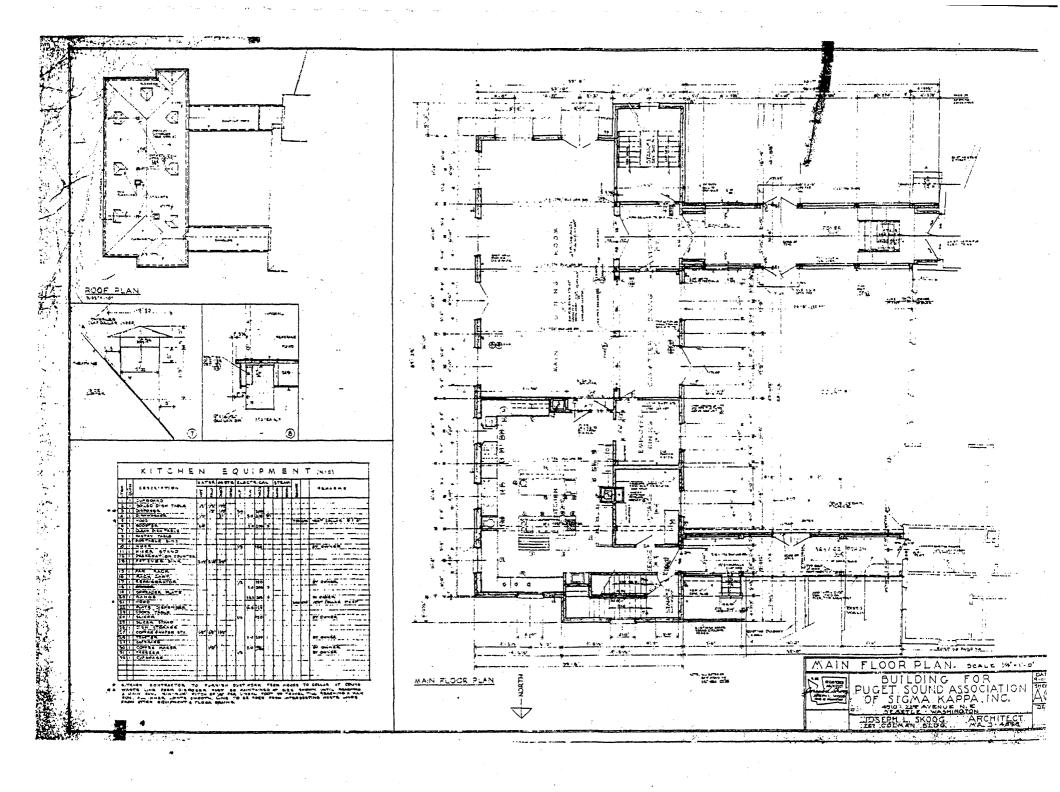


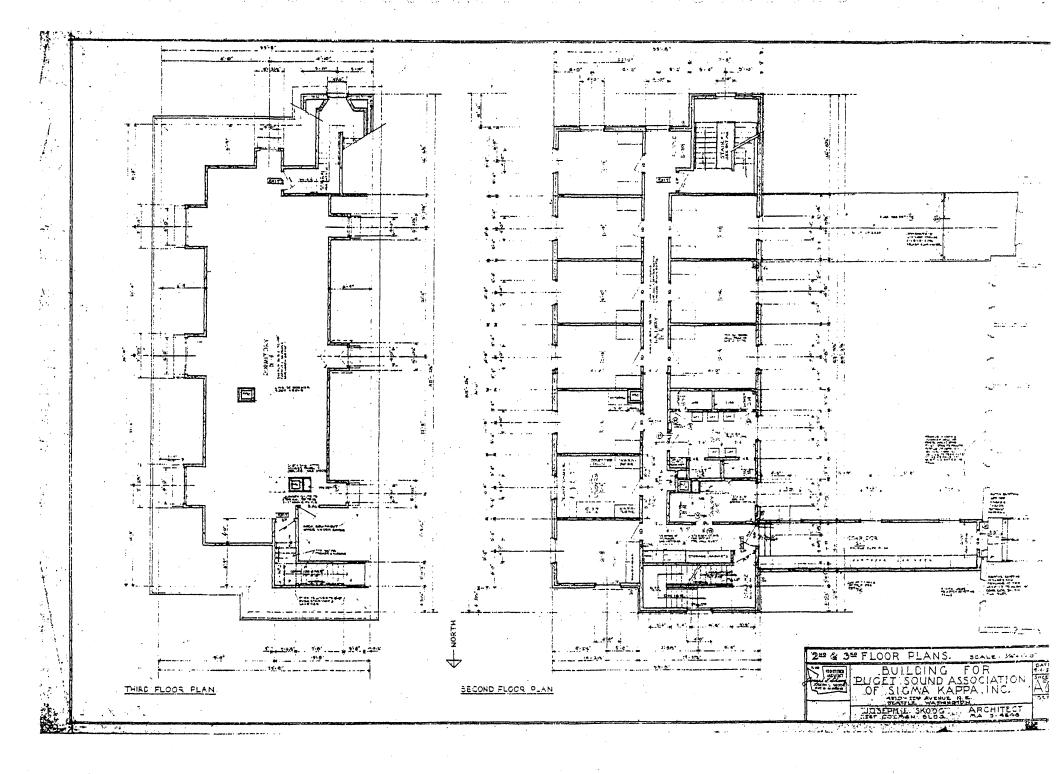


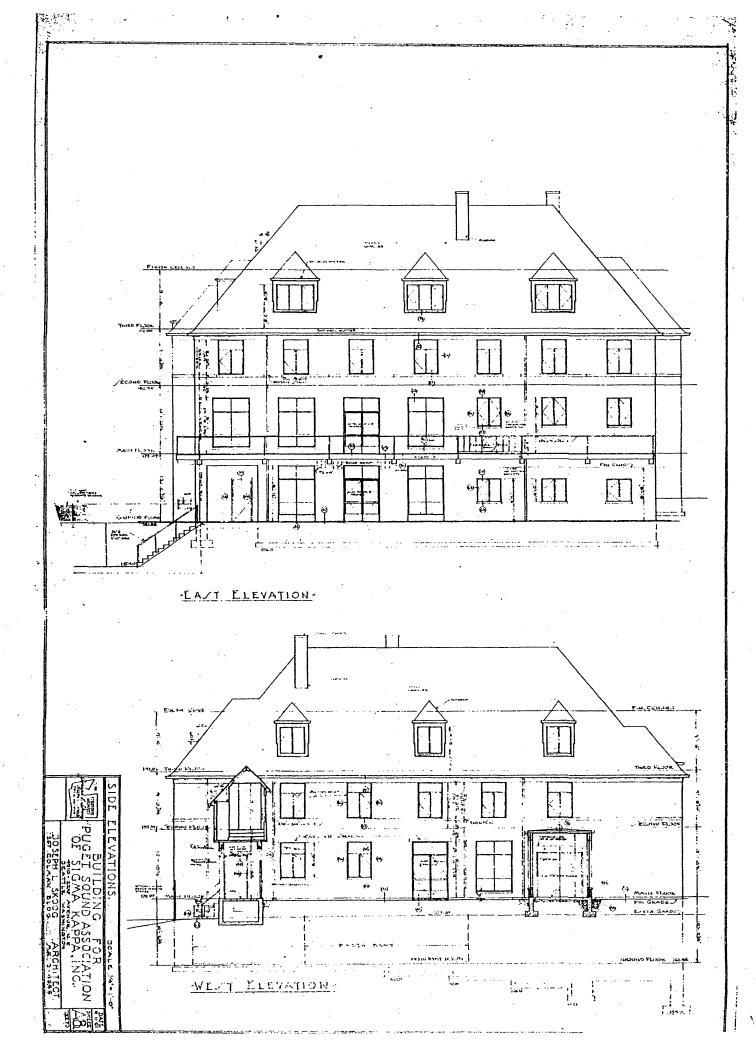


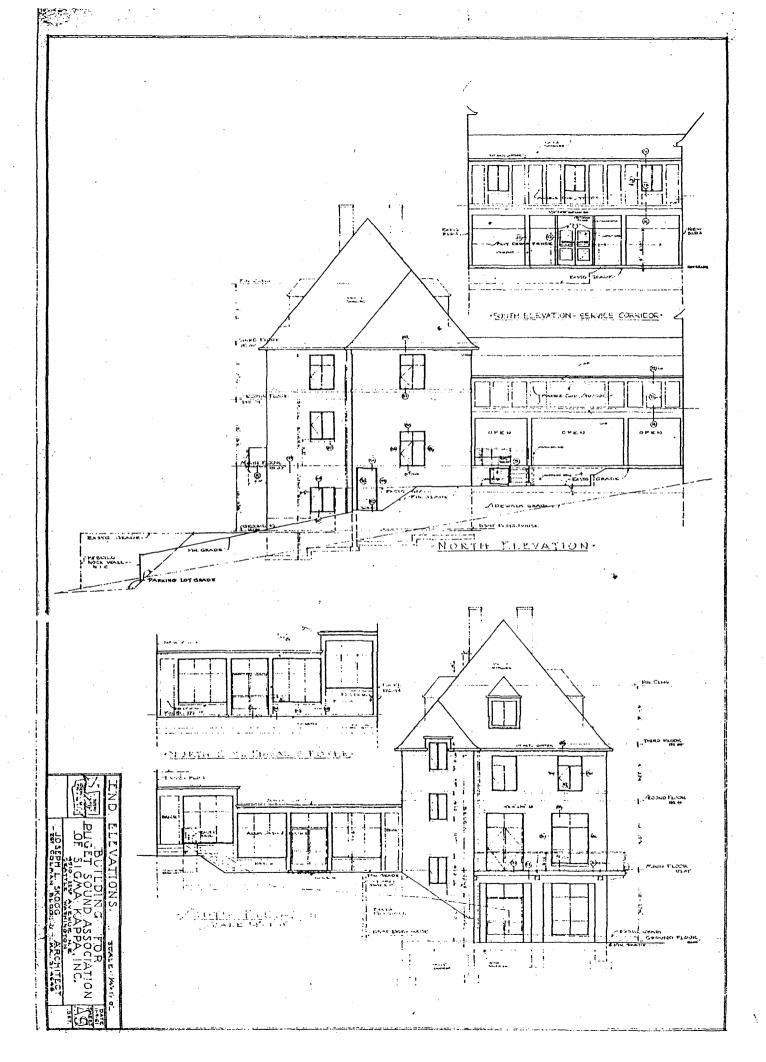


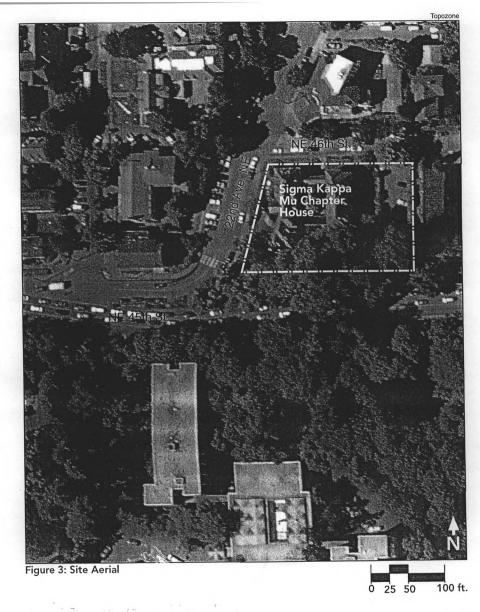


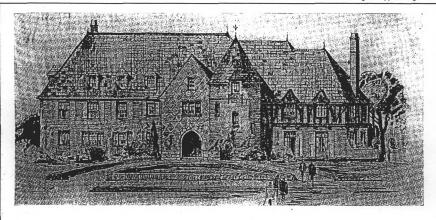












Conventionites Will Praise Mu's Handsome New Home

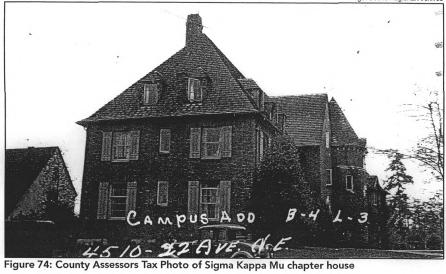
HOUSE which will be eagerly viewed by conventionites this summer is the new home of Mu chapter, scheduled for completion in August.

The house should be well along by convention time. It is to be French country-style, with a tower. There will be fifteen study rooms, a guest room, a sleeping porch, and baths on the second and third floors. The kitchen, breakfast room, living and dining rooms will occupy the first floor, together with a loggia overlooking the lake. The chapter hall will be in the

basement, which will also house the servants' quarters and store rooms.

Special features in the plan are a chapter office, a room for town girls with lockers for their belongings, and a guest room, and a breakfast room where class meetings may be held at meal times.

We are especially enthusiastic about the location at the extreme east end of the fraternity district and directly adjoining the campus. We have a wonderful view of the lake and mountains. The bit of campus next our property is still wooded, with fascinating shady trails.



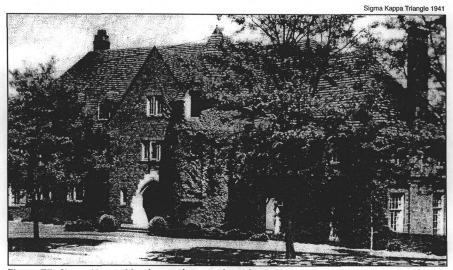


Figure 75: Sigma Kappa Mu chapter house, photo from 1941

Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter House



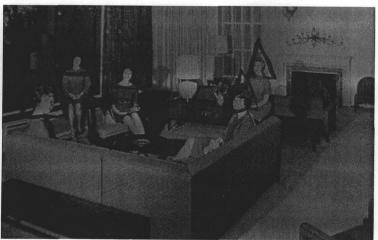
Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter – 1937. Photo courtesy of Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter



Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter House entry - c 1958. Photo courtesy of Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter



Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter House showing rear wing and breezeway – c 1965. Photo courtesy of Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter



Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter House main living room area – c 1965. Photo courtesy of Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter



Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter House showing typical study room – c 1965. Photo courtesy of Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter



Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter House showing breezeway – c 1965. Photo courtesy of Sigma Kappa Mu Chapter





Home Atmosphere Created For Women Students

the percentage for the description of the cost have Typical is the Signic Kappa Socrety Issue, Shadwaled Sollar Three the requisititize of a building one



3rd Section Realty, Building







Puget Sound Regional Archives





