

4312

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 districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Ohio Wesleyan University Fraternity Hill Historic District

Other names/site number: Fraternity Row, Williams Campus

Name of related multiple property listing:

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



2. Location

Street & number: 4, 9, 10, 15, 19, 20, 23, 30, and 35 Williams Drive

City or town: Delaware State: Ohio County: Delaware

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 X A B X C D

<u>Barbara Power</u> DSHPO for Inventory & Registration	<u>July 10, 2019</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
___ State Historic Preservation Office, Ohio History Connection _____	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date

Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Ohio Wesleyan University Fraternity Hill Historic District

Delaware County, Ohio

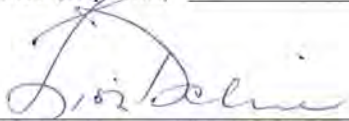
Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)



Signature of the Keeper

8/29/19

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/education-related housing

SOCIAL/clubhouse

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/education-related housing

SOCIAL/clubhouse

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival, Georgian Revival
MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, stone, wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Ohio Wesleyan University Fraternity Hill Historic District is an intact and cohesive grouping of nine mid-20th century fraternity chapter houses on the residential campus of Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio. This sector of the campus is located to the west of the academic campus, in an area that contains residential dormitories in addition to the fraternity buildings. The Fraternity Hill Historic District is set apart from the dormitory buildings by its residential style architecture and park-like setting with curving drive, generous setbacks, spacious lots, and central green. Built between 1954 and 1963, the houses are universally brick-faced construction, with a maximum of three stories, and designed in styles that include both traditional and modern. The choice of style was left to each fraternity, with the result that five of the houses exhibit a Georgian or Colonial Revival style, while four of the buildings have more Modernist or Craftsman designs. A total of six architects were involved, with one Columbus, Ohio, firm designing four of the houses. Each individual building has architectural integrity, and the district setting as a whole retains its original landscaped design, representing a distinctive assemblage of buildings designed for a common purpose on the Ohio Wesleyan residential campus.

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Narrative Description

The Fraternity Hill Historic District is located on the Ohio Wesleyan University campus in the city of Delaware, Delaware County, Ohio. The district contains nine contributing buildings, all fraternity chapter houses that were built between 1954 and 1963. The houses are positioned to front on both sides of Williams Drive, a curving roadway that loops through the site from entrances on Park Avenue. The houses are given generous lots, providing ample green space in the district that presents a park-like setting appropriate to the size and scale of the houses. At the east end of the property is a green space created by a segment of drive in front of the Sigma Phi Epsilon House at 10 Williams Drive. Parking areas are generally located and accessed at the rear of the houses, so do not interfere with the overall setting. There are also two non-contributing garages on the site (built outside the Period of Significance), located to the rear of 15 and 35 Williams Drive. To the east of the district are three University dormitories that front on Liberty Street, to the north and west are residential buildings that front on Oak Hill and Montrose Avenues, and to the south is Park Avenue, with residential buildings and a University athletic field.

Beginning with the earliest house in the district, the following description starts at the northwest corner and continues in a clockwise direction around Williams Drive.

1. Phi Gamma Delta (Phi Gam)

35 Williams Drive

Photos 1 – 4

Located at the western end of Williams Drive, this house was built in 1954 in a classic Georgian Revival Style to a design by Columbus-based architects Sims, Cornelius and Schooley. The three-story plus basement, brick-faced building is rectangular in shape, with a steeply-pitched slate gabled roof with prominent exterior brick end chimney at the west gable. The building is defined by its main block of seven bays, flanked on the west by a flat-roofed one-story wing, and on the east by a 2-bay full height gabled wing with a slight setback and a second flat-roofed one-story wing that was added in 1962-63. The corners are defined by brick quoins. At the center is a full-height raised entrance portico with tall Doric columns supporting a gabled pediment with an oculus window in the center. The entrance door has a simple enframing with transom window; the door itself has been replaced. Window openings have splayed brick lintels with oversized keystones and are flanked by shutters. Windows are later 20th century 6-over-6 replacements for the original 8-over-8 or 8-over-12 configurations. The one-story wings have a parapet roofline that is set off by a wood molded cornice with copper flashing. Windows there have a lower panel section, typical of the Georgian Revival style. At the rear of the building is a one-story addition completed in 1962-63 from the walk-out basement level that served as an expanded dining room for the house, replacing a flagstone terrace at this location. Also built at that time was an expanded apartment for the housemother with a separate entrance, located in the one-story wing added to the east side. The building sits back from Williams Drive, in a grassy setting. A parking lot is located to the west and a small frame gable-roofed outbuilding (c. 1970s, non-contributing) is located behind the house.

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2. Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE)

23 Williams Drive

Photos 5, 6 and 9

The second house to be built in the district, the Sigma Alpha Epsilon House was also the second to be designed by Sims, Cornelius and Schooley architects. Occupied in 1954, the SAE House provides an example of a simplified Georgian Revival style. Rectangular in plan, the building is three stories plus basement, with a symmetrical main gabled block that contains seven bays. The façade is divided into three sections by slight projections of the end blocks with brick quoins at corners; these sections are capped by a pedimented cross gable at the roofline. Between the gables are three gabled frame dormers in the asphalt shingled roof. The main entrance at the center of the facade is reached by a set of steps and displays a classical entablature with broken pediment, pilasters, and sidelights. Window openings have splayed brick lintels with oversized keystones and are flanked by shutters; the first floor window openings have a raised panel below the sash. Windows are later 20th century 12-over-12 or 8-over-8 replacements. The west side elevation is the location for a broad one-story porch, with flat roof supported by four Doric columns resting on a raised brick base, with a simple iron railing. A pair of French doors provides entrance to the porch from the house. A large exterior brick chimney is also located at this end of the building. A small one-story wing with flat roof was added to the east side of the house after 1963 to create a kitchen and separate entrance for the housemother's apartment. At the front of the house, the sidewalk from Williams Drive is formal, leading to the center front steps and entry door. Parking is located to the rear, and no outbuildings are present.

3. Phi Delta Theta (Phi Delt)

19 Williams Drive

Photos 7 – 9

Built in 1960, the Phi Delta Theta House is an example of a simplified Colonial Revival architectural style with elements of a French Colonial Revival influence in its broad hipped-roof form and center inset three-bay porch with decorative wrought iron. The architect was Hoke & Nickerson, from Toledo, Ohio. The brick-faced building is rectangular in plan, three stories in height plus basement, with an asphalt shingle roof. The symmetrical façade has 10 bays in a pattern of 3-4-3. The center section of four bays is recessed into the wall, with a two-story recessed porch with ornate wrought iron supports and framing. The central entrance features a classical-entablature painted-wood surround with rectangular transom above paired doors. Window openings have splayed brick headers with keystones; the original 8-over-8 wood double hung windows still exist. Five simple gabled dormers exist at the hipped roof. Side elevations have three bays, with the center bay marking the location of the interior stair and stair exit. At the rear of the house, the basement level is exposed, with French doors leading out from the main building to a covered porch. French doors also lead from the first floor to a balcony above the rear porch, with stairs down to a rear courtyard. Flanking the courtyard to the east and west are one-story, flat-roofed brick wings at grade. The house has a grassy site, with a front sidewalk leading to the front door from Williams Drive. A portion of the rear yard is paved for use as a basketball court. There are no outbuildings and parking is shared with adjacent buildings.

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4. Phi Kappa Psi (Phi Psi)

15 Williams Drive

Photos 10 – 12

Completed in 1960, this house is the third designed by Columbus architects Sims, Cornelius and Schooley. Exhibiting a Colonial Revival style, the Phi Psi house is rectangular in plan, three stories plus basement, with a low-pitched hipped asphalt shingle roof. The symmetrical façade consists of a nine-bay main block with smaller flat-roofed wings to each side. It is dominated by a monumental, two-story, five-bay entrance porch with heavy Doric wood columns supporting an entablature cornice with row of dentils above the frieze. The porch and side wings are topped by wrought iron railings, which are later additions. The central entry door, which is classically framed with an entablature cornice and fluted pilasters, has multi-paned rectangular transom and sidelights. Window openings lack any header, but have stone sills. The windows are compatible 8-over-8 replacements. The east and west two-story wings have a center projecting bay window with copper roof at the first floor and a single double-hung window above. The side and rear elevations of the building are plain, with a pair of windows at each level. A fire escape is at the west end of the rear elevation and a large wooden deck has been added to the rear of the house. Parking is located to the west of the house. Also present on this property is a c. 1915 frame two-car garage that was originally associated with an earlier dwelling house located here. Shown on the 1923 Sanborn map as a two-story carriage house, this building was reduced to one story by 1950. Since it is outside the Period of Significance for the district, the garage is considered non-contributing.

5. Beta Theta Pi (Beta)

9 Williams Drive

Photos 12, 13

The Beta Theta Pi House is a square-shaped brick block with elements of Modernism in its details. Completed in 1961, it was designed by Columbus architects Milosevich and Trautwein. The three-story (plus basement) building has a low-pitched hipped asphalt roof with wide eaves that overhang a tall painted-wood fascia on all four sides. On the east side elevation, a massive brick exterior chimney pierces the overhang. The eight-bay façade is divided into four sections of two bays each by tall and narrow brick piers that project from the wall plane, lending verticality to the overall horizontal form. Verticality is also created at the window bays, which are unified by spandrel panels comprised of soldier bricks that are accented by a single row of darker soldiers projecting forward by one inch. The pier and spandrel design is repeated on the rear elevation as well. Originally, the windows were single-light wood casements, since replaced with 8-over-8 double-hung window sash. The first floor originally had French doors in each opening (except the main entry), infilled with windows in the later 20th century. The main entrance feature is recessed into the second bay, an off-center design. It is reached by a raised concrete terrace that functions as a front porch. The entry door remains in the original location but was flanked by a tile screen originally versus the paneling that exists today. The side elevations of the building are plain, with the east side being the location for a concrete sundeck and fire escape. On the west side, the original construction includes a one-story brick and frame hipped-roof section with entrances on front and side. The front portion of this was used as the

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housemother's apartment, while the rear was used for kitchen and pantry. Mid-20th century influences in the design of this piece include the front brick panel with projecting headers and a random ashlar limestone wall that runs along its west side. Set back from Williams Drive, the house is accessed by a sidewalk that curves from the south to run in front of the building. A parking area is located off of the building's north corner. No outbuildings are present.

6. Alpha Sigma Phi (Alpha Sig)

4 Williams Drive

Photos 17 – 18

Modernist in character, the brick Alpha Sigma Phi building was designed by Cleveland architects Dalton-Dalton Associates and completed in 1963. The house is comprised of two blocks: a T-shaped one-story block serving as the façade facing Williams Drive, and a rectangular three-story dormitory block behind it. The building is asymmetrical with a low-pitched gabled roof with wide overhanging eaves at both the one-story and three-story sections. The forward section of the one-story T-shaped block has a centered projecting window bay at the gable end and full-height windows separated by masonry piers at side elevations. Doors on the side elevations provide access to a concrete entrance terrace to the north and a wood deck to the south. The north wing of the T contains the main building entrance adjacent to a row of narrow vertical windows at the location of the concrete patio. The remainder of this wing has seven full-height window and door bays set between brick piers on both its east and west sides, and a wide exposed brick chimney at the north gabled end. The south wing of the one-story block is smaller and contains simple one-over-one windows. Overall, the one-story T-shaped section of the building was designed to reflect its communal use as the dining and lounge spaces for the fraternity. The repetitive vertical window bays, recessed within a colonnade of brick piers, gives the building a hint of New Formalism, but it does not strictly fall within that Modernist architectural style. The three-story block to the rear is more simply designed, with punched window openings that illustrate its dormitory use. The gabled ends have a centered protruding bay that repeats the motif seen on the front one-story wing. On the east side (rear), this bay contains paired windows separated by porcelain enamel spandrels. Otherwise, the walls are generally plain with brick soldier string courses providing some interest. A secondary entrance is on the south side elevation. It is defined by a tall transom window that extends to the eave, matching the vertical emphasis of the window column on the east elevation. The parking lot for the building is located to its south at Park Avenue. No outbuildings are present.

7. Sigma Phi Epsilon (Sig Ep)

10 Williams Drive

Photos 16, 19

Designed by Sims, Cornelius and Schooley and completed in 1962, the Sigma Phi Epsilon House is rectangular in plan, three stories in height, plus basement, and designed in a Georgian Revival style. The building is faced in red brick that is accented by the white trim details of its porch, entrances, and windows. The massing consists of a central main block of seven bays that is flanked by smaller wings of two bays each. Brick quoins at corners and large brick chimneys at the gabled ends are hallmarks of the style. The centerpiece of the symmetrical façade is the

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massive circular entrance portico with two-story Doric columns supporting a frieze and cornice of simple character. Reached by original stone steps, the portico shelters the centered main entrance, which features a broken pediment surround. The entry door is a later replacement. First floor window openings in the main block extend to the floor with a panel below the window. Windows throughout are 6-over-6 replacements for the original 8-over-8 and 8-over-12 configurations, and all have paneled shutters. The gabled roof is asphalt shingles and there are five frame gabled dormers at its center. Side elevations are relatively simple, highlighted by the massive end chimney centered between two window bays. The rear of the building displays the three-story height plus the exposed basement level. A pair of rear doors marks the location of interior exit stairs at the ends of the main block. The site is grassy and landscaped, with a wide sidewalk providing a formal entrance to the front steps and porch. A paved parking area is located at the rear, with access from Park Avenue. No outbuildings are present.

8. Delta Tau Delta (Delt)

20 Williams Drive

Photos 20 – 22

The Delta Tau Delta House was built with an overall Craftsman influence, although the building cannot be formally placed in that category. Completed in 1962 to a design by Nitschke & McCoy, the fraternity house is U-shaped in plan, faced in brick, with a massive hipped roof sheltering its third story. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles, is flared at the eaves, and has a series of shed dormers on all sides. A large rectangular brick chimney rises off center from a truncated portion at the top of the roof. There are three doors into the house, on the east, west, and south sides. The south elevation faces Park Avenue and consists of two wings flanking a center raised brick terrace, forming the U-shaped plan. The central entrance here is a pair of French doors flanked by projecting bay windows and sheltered by a pergola-style roof. East and west side elevations each have five bays, with a center door that relates to the location of interior stairs. Both have simple enframements at the door, with a full porch on the east and a porch hood on the west. Finally, the north elevation, which faces Williams Drive, contains eight window bays on the second floor and a first floor dominated by a broad center wood-framed projecting bay with five pairs of windows at the location of the interior dining room. This bay rests on a base with windows providing light to the basement level. All windows in this building are casement style as originally designed. The window openings throughout have a soldier-brick surround that protrudes slightly from the wall plane, providing additional dimension. The site for this building includes a paved walkway to the east side that is c. 1970s addition by the fraternity. A parking lot is located off of Park Avenue to the south of the house. No outbuildings are present.

9. Sigma Chi

30 Williams Drive

Photos 23 – 25

The Sigma Chi House was designed by Columbus architects Van Buren, Blackburn & Associates and completed in 1962. The building is Modernist in character but does not fall within any Modernist stylistic subcategories. The brick, T-shaped fraternity house is comprised of a two-

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story block on the west end and a perpendicular one-story block on a raised basement extending to the east. The building has a low-pitched gabled roof with wide eaves. The two-story block has horizontal slider windows, contained within vertical bands. On its west elevation, the repetitive window bays alternate between paired windows separated by a concrete column and a single window. Flush spandrels are beneath each window opening. The north elevation of the two-story block is asymmetrical with a recessed corner porch on the northwest corner. A recessed concrete panel, above the porch, matches the window spandrels. Raised brick courses in an abstract pattern provide sculptural relief to the left (east) of the porch on this façade. Intersecting the façade below this patterning is a low wall with the name of the fraternity incised into the stone cap. The north elevation of the one-story wing is situated on a raised pedestal, five steps above grade. The recessed entrance is at the ell of the two blocks. Windows within the one-story block are of a picture-window configuration, consisting of a fixed central pane with flanking one-over-one windows. Here, window bays are divided by protruding brick piers. The east elevation of the one-story block is asymmetrical, with two full window bays on the north and a smooth concrete panel in the gable above partial window bays on the south. The raised basement is exposed on the south elevation of the one-story wing. This elevation has a central window bay with three grouped picture windows and a single window bay at each end. A concrete spandrel separates the windows between floor levels. The lower level also has a picture window configuration, but with a centered fixed pane and flanking horizontal sliders. Parking is located off Park Avenue to the south of the house. No outbuildings are present.

Statement of Integrity

The Fraternity Hill Historic District has historic integrity in terms of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The district buildings are in their original locations, in a well-preserved setting that appears as it existed historically. The district remains essentially as designed and constructed between 1954 and 1963, without any significant changes that would diminish its historic character. The common area landscape remains intact with its winding drive and walkways, most of which are original to the property. The nine houses retain their individual historic character and original architectural designs, with minor changes to windows and doors as would be expected. The buildings continue to exhibit the materials and workmanship that characterize mid-20th century design, as interpreted in both Revival and Modernistic styles. Among the features that help to convey feeling and association with the fraternity chapter house function are the French doors, patios, terraces and decks that are incorporated into the design to encourage members to socialize and gather as a group. In the Revival style designs, these areas were accessed from communal interior spaces such as the dining rooms and lounges, often located toward the rear of the house at ground or first floor levels. For the Modernist buildings, these spaces were given more prominence, being located in the front T-shaped blocks with access to raised outdoor terraces at the front of the building.

The communal character of the historic district is also evident in the intact landscape design, with each house fronting on the winding drive and common green, in a setting that reinforces the social and residential purpose of the district for Ohio Wesleyan students. Each house retains its individual setting, with ample green space that is uninterrupted by later construction. Parking areas and access drives are in secondary locations, kept to the rear and sides of the fraternities in

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order to maintain their appropriate frontage onto the green space. All of the fraternity houses are contributing to the district. Non-contributing buildings consist only of two small garages located to the rear of two of the houses, including one built prior to, and one built after the Period of Significance.

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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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1954-1969

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Dalton-Dalton Associates
Hoke & Nickerson
Milosevich and Trautwein
Nitschke & McCoy
Sims, Cornelius and Schooley
Van Buren, Blackburn & Associates

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Ohio Wesleyan University Fraternity Hill Historic District is eligible for the National Register for its local significance under Criteria A and C. The district meets Criterion A for its association with a period of significant growth and expansion as Ohio Wesleyan entered a boom enrollment period in the years following World War II. With male students back on campus, the 1950s and 1960s were a period when Greek-letter fraternities reached a peak in popularity and were embraced on campus as never before. Fraternities had occupied scattered sites in the city of Delaware since the early 1900s, but the creation of a University-owned fraternity district heralded a new era and provided a centralized location for an important university population. “The Hill” emerged as an important social setting on the Ohio Wesleyan campus, bringing together the campus community for parties, formals, serenades, ceremonies and outdoor events such as float building and intramural sports. Developed within a 10-year span from 1954 to 1963, the Fraternity Hill Historic District is an important illustration of the prominent role that Greek letter fraternities played on the Ohio Wesleyan campus during the mid-20th century.

Under Criterion C, the district is noteworthy as a cohesive collection of buildings that were constructed for a unified purpose in a landscaped, park-like setting. Designed by six different architects in styles that include Georgian Revival, Colonial Revival and Mid-20th Century Modern, these nine buildings illustrate trends in fraternity chapter house design from the period and represent a specialized building type. The buildings are distinctly residential in character, with scale and materials that illustrate their respective mid-20th century designs. The social nature of fraternity life was reinforced by the arrangement of the chapter houses around a communal green space. Outdoor terraces and patios were incorporated into the individual house designs to reinforce this connectivity. The period of significance of 1954 to 1969 represents the date of the first house construction and the date at the end of the 1960s when the popularity of fraternities on campus had begun to decline. The end date also coincides with the 50-year cutoff for National Register eligibility.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Ohio Wesleyan University

Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU) was founded in 1842 by the Methodist Church as a private liberal arts college. Its location in Delaware, Ohio, was based upon the “public spirit” of the townspeople who helped raised funds for the purchase of the “Mansion House” hotel, now known as Elliott Hall (NR #73001430, 1833) and the first building on the OWU campus. Nineteenth century construction focused on the creation of an academic campus on the west side of Sandusky Street, including Sturges Hall (NR #73001430, 1856), Merrick Hall (NR #73001430, 1873), University Hall (NR #85000638, 1893), and Slocum Hall (NR #85000636, 1898). A separate institution, the Ohio Wesleyan Female College, was established across town on the western edge of Delaware in 1853, eventually merging with the men’s college in 1877.

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The University expanded its facilities as part of a broader curriculum that included arts and physical education in the early 1900s with buildings such as Edwards Gymnasium (NR #85000632, 1905), Sanborn Hall (music building, NR #8500634, 1908) and Selby Stadium (NR #85000635, 1929).

During the 19th and early years of the 20th century, male students at Ohio Wesleyan resided in town at private residences or in fraternities, while the University took responsibility for housing women in dormitories. Women lived on the west campus in Monnett Hall (built 1856, NR #75001374, demolished 1979) or in Freshman cottages. Enrollment increases during the early 1900s, when the school was approaching 2,000 students, made it clear that the cottage system was inadequate and additional dormitory space for women was needed. The result was construction of Austin Hall in 1923 (NR #85000631) and Stuyvesant Hall in 1931 (NR #85000637), providing additional housing for women. It is worth noting that the Stuyvesant Hall women's dormitory would be the last university building constructed on campus until the post-World War II boom of the 1950s and 1960s.

Fraternities at OWU through WWII

The first Greek-letter fraternity at Ohio Wesleyan was established in 1853, with seven more added during the 1860s. According to Barbara Tull in *150 Years of Excellence*, "The whole fraternity system was not very well understood by the educational world in 1860. There was entirely too much secrecy connected with fraternities and this naturally aroused the suspicions of most faculties toward the Greeks." An OWU graduate from 1869 commented, "There were no houses, no halls, merely rooms above some grocery store... There was no great desire among the students to belong; the downtown rooms were bare and unattractive. The students took much more interest in their literary societies. These had fine, well-furnished halls in Sturges and were busy, live and cheerful places." (Hubbart, page 267)

Opposition to fraternities by students, faculty, and trustees led to abolition of all campus fraternities from 1870 to 1872. When the order was rescinded, the faculty remained suspicious, resolving, "We are as much as ever convinced of the evil tendencies of secret college fraternities." (Hubbart, page 270) Nevertheless, a change was about to occur by the late 1880s, when fraternities once again garnered general support on campus as they sought to prove that they represented a "distinctly democratic fraternal spirit." (Hubbart, page 271) This was solidified as school policy in a statement by the University president in 1888: "*It is the policy of Ohio Wesleyan to recognize, utilize and elevate fraternities.*" Fraternities at Ohio Wesleyan in that year included the following: Beta Theta Pi, founded 1853; Sigma Chi, founded 1855; Phi Delta Theta, founded 1860; Phi Kappa Psi, founded 1861; Delta Tau Delta, founded 1866; Phi Gamma Delta, founded 1869; Chi Phi, founded 1873; Alpha Tau Omega, founded 1887; and Sigma Alpha Epsilon, founded 1888.¹ The fraternity system at Ohio Wesleyan appeared to be here to stay.

¹ Of these nine groups, eight of them would be among those building on Fraternity Hill in the 1950s and 1960s.

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It was not until the early 1900s that Ohio Wesleyan fraternities began to establish their own chapter houses. Most of these were located in existing homes in Delaware that were rented at first and later purchased by the fraternity. According to Hubbart, the appropriate location for the house was a matter of real concern; in fact, the trustees declared that the vicinity of Monnett Hall (the women's dormitory) was off limits. The coming of the chapter house meant increased responsibility by the organizations and their members, including managing business matters, "the establishment of a dining table," and the inevitable growth in chapter membership that would ensue. (Hubbart, page 274) As it happened, a "fraternity district" of sorts began to appear in the area of north-central Delaware in the vicinity of North Sandusky, North Franklin, and North Washington Streets. Some of Delaware's largest and finest mansions were taken over and adapted for fraternity use. Only three fraternities built their own chapter houses in this area, each a large-scale home of distinctive architectural character: Delta Tau Delta at 163 N. Franklin Street, Alpha Tau Omega at 290 N. Sandusky Street, and Sigma Chi at 36 Griswold Street. The locations of all 14 OWU fraternity houses in 1950 are shown on the map in Attachment A, showing their scattered distribution in the years immediately prior to the development of Fraternity Hill. At that time, there were also 12 sororities that occupied houses in the vicinity of West Winter Street in Delaware. All of the fraternity and sorority houses were privately owned at the time.

Naturally, fraternity membership tended to ebb and flow with college enrollment at OWU. Steady increases in enrollment through the years brought the student population to 973 by 1888; 1,271 by 1893; 1,390 by 1919; and to an early 20th century peak of nearly 2,000 students by 1926. The economic prosperity and boom times of the 1920s brought an increase in the number of fraternities, as well as a resurgence of sororities on the campus. This was soon to be moderated by the Depression years of the early 1930s, during which Ohio Wesleyan's student population dropped by 500 in two years. "Among the students, fraternity and sorority groups were suspended one after another." (Hubbart, page 160)

At the beginning of the Second World War, Henry Clyde Hubbart observed that the stabilization that had marked fraternity life on campus for the previous two decades was now threatened:

With the large number of groups on campus and, for the most part, a democratic spirit prevailing, the fraternity is no longer a problem in the old sense. In recent years emphasis has been placed on the group's scholarship rating; the housemother system has spread to all groups; "the house" continues to be the center of interest and fellowship for returned alumni; and the chapter continues to be one of the most important agencies for recruiting students. In 1942, however, this greater degree of stabilization is threatened by the prospect that the enlistment or draft of men will again deplete the fraternity ranks. Thus the fraternity continues to face the ebb and flow of fortune. But Ohio Wesleyan is clearly a "fraternity school"; to recognize this fact and utilize and elevate the institution is our challenge and our opportunity. (Hubbart, page 279)

In fact, the number of students enrolled at the start of the 1942 school year was about 1,400, which was not as significant a drop as had been anticipated due to the war. (*The Transcript*, October 9, 1942, page 1) This number included about 60% women and 40% men. However,

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male enrollment was to drop precipitously by the start of 1943 when the University registered 791 women and just 94 civilian men. (*The Transcript*, Nov. 24, 1943, page 1) Military men supplemented these numbers, however, as Ohio Wesleyan was participating with the U. S. Navy in housing V-5 and V-12 military training units starting in that year. While the V-5 pilots did not participate in college courses, the V-12 units added 374 men to the regular college enrollment. Nevertheless, fraternities essentially suspended operations during the period from 1943-1945.

OWU Fraternities and the Post-WWII Building Boom

Following World War II, the GI Bill made higher education available and affordable for returning veterans by granting stipends to cover tuition and expenses for colleges or trade schools. Ohio Wesleyan experienced a time of expansion and a boom in enrollment as veterans returned to campus. At the beginning of 1947, for example, the OWU enrollment increased to a peak of 1,000 women and 1,100 men, a number which included 850 veterans among the male student population. Like other colleges around the country, the University struggled to quickly meet the need for housing the returning vets. There were no men's dormitories on the campus, as OWU men had always resided in fraternity houses or boarded in private homes. The short-term solution was to secure surplus government buildings from the war effort, including Quonset huts, trailers and barracks. The Quonset huts were positioned south of the main academic campus and served as housing for single male students. Trailers were used to create a post-war housing development for married students, appropriately named "Vetville" and located in west Delaware. Surplus barracks were provided by the Federal Works Administration and transformed into dormitories beginning in the Fall of 1946. Eleven of these structures were located on the former property of Professor William G. Williams on South Liberty Street, which had been donated to Ohio Wesleyan by his heirs. The barracks, which became known as the Williams Dorms, each housed 16 men and contained eight bedrooms, wash rooms, storage space and living rooms. According to a 1947 OWU Yearbook article, "Williams Dorm on Oak Hill provides comfortable quarters for men unable to stay in private homes or fraternity houses." This "temporary veteran's housing project" is shown on the 1950 Sanborn Insurance Co. map in Attachment A, on the current site of Fraternity Hill.

According to Bernard Murchland, the lack of adequate housing for male students was an active issue on campus in the early 1950s. It was becoming a problem for admissions staff in attracting new students. And, while the Delaware fraternity houses provided living quarters, many of the fraternities were under pressure from the fire marshal's office to improve the safety of the older houses. (Murchland, page 227) All OWU women had been housed in campus dormitories since 1931 when Stuyvesant Hall was completed and the freshman cottage system was eliminated. (The University had determined years earlier that sorority chapter houses would only be used for meetings and social events.) While a men's dormitory had been contemplated as early as the 1920s (Hubbart, page 149), it was not until the post-World War II boom period that the University was compelled to act. OWU requested federal loan funds through the Housing and Home Finance Agency (precursor to the Department of Housing and Urban Development) for the construction of a men's residential campus on the Williams property. This was "a beautifully wooded section at the end of University Avenue, due west of the main campus." (OWU Magazine, April 1953, page 95). Located on this property were two homes, along with the

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temporary barracks. This sizable tract of University-owned land could accommodate not only dormitories, but also fraternities, which could be built next to each other “on what is hoped will become a fraternity row.” (*The Transcript*, Feb. 10, 1954).

Planning for the first dormitory and the first two fraternities was already underway in the fall of 1953, when the University learned that Federal funds would be approved for dormitory construction but not for the fraternity buildings. Determined to proceed with the plans, Ohio Wesleyan offered to help finance construction of the fraternities, demonstrating the University’s desire to assemble as many of the fraternities as possible in a single location. “Under an agreement available to all fraternities any organization having raised \$50,000 among its members may embark upon a new building program in which the University furnishes the land and will advance up to \$100,000. This amount is to be repaid by the fraternities in rental payments over forty years, with interest at four percent. The fraternity house is the property of the University and at the end of the forty-year period, when the principal has been repaid, the annual rental is reduced to ninety dollars. At this time the lease may be renewed.” (Murchland, page 228) Subsequently, an unfavorable IRS ruling jeopardized the tax deductibility of private donations that had been made for construction of the houses, with the result that the long-term leases were cancelled in favor of year-to-year leases.

The first two houses to accept the University’s offer to relocate to campus were Phi Gamma Delta (building 1) and Sigma Alpha Epsilon (building 2). Both fraternities owned houses in Delaware, which they expected to sell once the new chapter house was complete. These two fraternity houses were completed in 1954, but it would be few more years before the next fraternities would be constructed. In fact, it was not until 1958 that the University Board of Trustees approved an overall plan for the Williams Campus. (*The Transcript*, February 19, 1958) Dormitories faced directly east toward the main campus on Liberty Street while up to 11 fraternities would be spaced around a green space and winding roadway to their rear. Please see the “vicinity plan” shown in Figure 5 in Attachment A. (It should be noted that the lot shown fronting on Oak Hill Avenue at the northwest corner of the site was not given to a fraternity but instead became the location for the University President’s house in 1959. Since this building was not constructed as part of Fraternity Hill, it is excluded from the district.)

Construction on the north side of Williams Drive continued with the next two buildings in the row, Phi Delta Theta (building 3) and Phi Kappa Psi (building 4), both completed and occupied by the Fall of 1960, bringing the total to four. The remaining five houses were completed within the next three years. Beta Theta Pi (building 5) broke ground in 1960 and occupied the house in September of 1961, completing the north side of Williams Drive. The houses on the south side of Williams Drive were all completed in 1962, beginning with Sigma Chi (building 9), then Delta Tau Delta (building 8), and finally Sigma Phi Epsilon (building 7). The final building in the group was Alpha Sigma Phi (building 6), which was finished in 1963. Each of these fraternities had previously been located in an off-campus house, with locations shown in Figure 3 in Attachment A.

University ownership of the houses on Fraternity Hill was a first for Ohio Wesleyan, as the off-campus houses had previously been either owned by the fraternity chapter corporation or rented

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from a private owner. Through the years, this policy of University ownership has continued, as OWU eventually purchased all of the off-campus fraternity and sorority houses, maintaining control over these important University assets.

Using Federal loans, three new men's dormitories were constructed concurrently with the new fraternity houses. These were Thomson Hall (1954), Bashford Hall (1957), and Welch Hall (1963), all named for University presidents. They are located in a row fronting on Liberty Street to the east of Fraternity Hill. In combination with the nine fraternities, these facilities created on-campus living space for approximately 800 men within the span of a decade and helped cement the University's standing as a residential campus. While both the dormitories and fraternities filled this housing need, their purposes were quite distinct. The chapter houses had a social purpose, providing students with a place to gather, socialize, eat, sleep and study, while the dorms simply provided rooms to sleep and study. The first two dormitories, Thomson and Bashford, did not offer dining facilities or space for significant social interaction. This was logical at the time, as most of the men living in the dorm belonged to fraternities where they would go to socialize or have their meals. It was not until Welch Hall was built in 1963 that a dining room was included.

In July 1963, Ohio Wesleyan's new fraternity district was profiled in *Banta's Greek Exchange*, a serial-type newsletter, entitled "Ohio Wesleyan's Fraternity Row" and calling it a model development: "Cooperation between university officials and the fraternities is building a model Fraternity Row at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio. Other campuses have fraternity housing developments but the one at Ohio Wesleyan is unique in several important respects. Ohio Wesleyan's Fraternity Row was built entirely without federal funds – drawing entirely on private gifts. Furthermore, the Row demonstrates mutual effort by universities and fraternities to improve the housing situation. Each house on Williams Drive was designed to house about 40 men, and could accommodate up to 100 fraternity members who would dine there each day. The houses were owned by the University, which provided maintenance, supplied the housemother, and collected rent, while each fraternity had its own house manager who was responsible for the operation of the house."

While not involved to the same extent as with the fraternities, Ohio Wesleyan provided some assistance to six sororities between 1950 and 1954 by providing University-owned land in the vicinity of Monnett and Austin Halls for their lodges. (These six small ranch houses are no longer owned by the University today.) At the time, many of the older sororities were ensconced in older homes on West Winter Street, which they owned. As they hit hard times in the 1970s and beyond, some of these houses were sold as private homes when the sororities deactivated their chapters.

As noted earlier, the women's dormitory of Stuyvesant Hall (1931) was the only permanent building to be constructed on the OWU campus between 1930 and 1948, as the campus was impacted by both the Depression and World War II. The face of the campus would change dramatically in the next 25 years, however, as a building boom brought unprecedented construction on the Ohio Wesleyan campus. The modern period began with construction of a Temporary Union Building in 1948 and a permanent Memorial Union Building in 1950-51, the

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latter built as a student center and memorial to service members who had perished in the war. On the academic campus, athletic facilities were expanded with the construction of Pfeiffer Natatorium in 1954. Phillips Hall was completed in 1958, providing a home for the University's Psychology, Education, Religion, and Philosophy Departments. Bigelow Rice and Science Halls were built in 1962 and 1969, respectively, to serve students studying the natural sciences. In 1966, the University built a major new library, located on University Avenue between the academic and residential campuses. Chappellear Drama Center was built in the same area in 1972. On the residential campus, the men's dorms were completed by 1963, along with a new women's dormitory, Hayes Hall, in 1963, and Smith Hall, built in 1967 as the University's first coed dormitory. All told, the 10-year period between 1962 and 1972 added a total of half a million square feet of floor space to the campus, increasing its square footage at the time by more than a third.

The Role of Fraternities on the OWU Campus

Fraternities and sororities reached their peak of popularity during the post-WWII boom period at Ohio Wesleyan, with 97% of men and 86% of women being members of the Greek system in 1953. A total of 15 fraternities and 12 sororities existed at Ohio Wesleyan at the time (*Ohio Wesleyan Magazine*, August 1983, page 19). As a group, they had achieved success and appeared to have a permanent place on the campus. In a reference to the original 1888 goal to "recognize, utilize and elevate" fraternities, the *Ohio Wesleyan Magazine* of April 1952 proclaimed:

"Fraternities have been recognized as an asset to the college community, providing training in leadership, organization, responsibility and sociability. Fraternities are being utilized as a rallying point for returning alumni and as a means of contact with prospective students. Fraternities have been elevated from often mischievous groups to groups with high ideals and standards, serving the campus and community."

The Greek system was an important aspect of college life during this period. Ohio Wesleyan's Freshman Handbook of 1956 referred to the university as a "fraternity school." Fraternity membership was promoted by the administration, students and alumni as a means to better oneself and to enhance the college experience in a significant way. In a 1958 brochure, the Interfraternity Council at Ohio Wesleyan outlined the intangible ways that fraternity membership is useful, such as leadership training, intimate friendships, and the benefits of living and working together: "the feeling of belonging to a group of men with similar but yet varying interests and the satisfaction of contributing toward common goals which that group of men attempts to realize. The fraternity man learns the value of working with a group and helping to make that group as successful as possible...living in the fraternity house intimately with men who will become enduring friends, living amidst an attitude of preparation for life after graduation, living in a manner that allows men a better understanding of themselves and their existence... It is a great experience."

As OWU President Elden T. Smith stated in 1963: "For more than 100 years, the fraternity system at Ohio Wesleyan has been a valued part of the educational program of the University. It

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was for this reason that the board of trustees decided to embark on a fraternity housing project that would provide high quality living conditions for men students and at the same time would strengthen the entire fraternity system.” He continued, “We believe that fraternity living should provide a standard equivalent or superior to that to which a student has been accustomed at home and that it should give him a constant educational experience in which he assumes a measure of responsibility for sustaining a good home.” (Banta)

The new chapter houses on Fraternity Hill did indeed provide all of the social amenities of a fine residence on the ground and first floors, including spacious living rooms, dining rooms, recreation rooms and lounges, often with fireplaces and French doors leading to outdoor terraces or patios. A special chapter room provided the setting for pledging ceremonies and organizational meetings. The housemother concept, which became popular on campus during the 1940s, soon spread to all groups, and a housemother’s apartment or suite was incorporated into each of the new house designs on Fraternity Hill. (Some of these were more comfortable than others, and at least two fraternities expanded their housemother’s living quarters a few years after construction.) While freshmen resided in the dorms, the majority of Ohio Wesleyan’s upper classmen lived in fraternity houses during this period. Connectivity was encouraged through common areas (bathrooms, stairwells, entry halls) as well as areas where students could congregate, such as chapter rooms, dining rooms, lounges, and outdoor patios.

Beyond its role as a physical location for members to live and socialize, the fraternity chapter house was symbolic of their shared values and associations, engendering tremendous loyalty. The fraternity’s identity was very much tied to the house in the minds of OWU students and alumni. While the individual chapter house was the epicenter of fraternity life, the coalescence of so many fraternities into a single location on Fraternity Hill was a means of unifying the Greeks as a whole and elevating their status on the campus. Social activities at Ohio Wesleyan often revolved around the Greek houses, including events such as fraternity rush, winter dances and dinners, spring formals, and Homecoming. During the 1950s and 1960s, sweetheart serenades and pinning ceremonies were popular. Singing in three- or four-part harmony was an integral part of Greek life, as the men often sang at meals or marched to the women’s dorms to serenade. The communal green space on the Hill attracted casual outdoor recreation such as frisbee or volleyball, or provided a place for community service activities or events that were co-sponsored with sororities or other groups. Derby Days, tricycle races, float building, and numerous other events were held on the Hill; it was even the setting for the “streaking” craze of the 1970s.

Fraternity membership at Ohio Wesleyan remained strong at the beginning of the 1960s, when 87% of men and 72% of women pledged fraternities or sororities. But the coming decade of unrest brought a decline, as membership dropped to 62% of the men and 48% of the women in 1969 (Murchland, page 73). Cultural and political changes contributed to this drop, as there was growing campus activism and demand for more relevance and social responsibility. The OWU President at that time identified three reasons: First, with newly constructed residence halls, the fraternity function of housing students was no longer essential. Second, increased academic pressures were forcing students to make tighter choices in the way they spent their elective time. Finally, the social consciousness of the day made students question an organization that “places more emphasis upon a man’s color of skin, religious background or national origin than it does

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upon personal character, basic integrity and intellectual capacity.” (Tull, page 72) In 1964 the Board of Trustees adopted a policy requiring all campus organizations to eliminate discriminatory membership clauses (OWU website, accessed April 9, 2019), yet many fraternities still garnered a reputation for exclusivity and stereotyping. By the 1970s and 1980s, only about 50% of men and 40% of women belonged to the OWU Greek system. In 1983, there were 10 fraternities remaining on the OWU campus, nine on Fraternity Hill and one in an off-campus chapter house. In the coming years, some of these fraternities would lose their charter or be suspended from campus due to misconduct or other violations of school policy.

Today, about one-third of the student body is involved in five fraternities and five sororities on the Ohio Wesleyan campus. As a result of this change, the University has converted some of the houses on Fraternity Hill to general residential use. The former SAE House (building 2), for example, is now known as the Bigelow-Reed House, a living and learning community for students interested in business. The former Sigma Chi House (building 9) functions as the University’s Panhellenic House, housing up to 22 women from different campus sororities. The former Alpha Sigma Phi House (building 6) now houses juniors and seniors. Of the original nine fraternities on the Hill, only three continue to occupy their original chapter house at the present time: Phi Gamma Delta (building 1), Sigma Phi Epsilon (building 7), and Delta Tau Delta (building 8). One original occupant of the hill, Alpha Sig, now occupies the former Beta House (building 3). Two buildings are vacant, the Phi Delta Theta House (building 3), which was suspended at the end of 2018, and Phi Kappa Psi (building 4), which the University disbanded in 2016. Finally, there remains one university-owned, off-campus house, occupied by the Chi Phi Fraternity in north Delaware.

Architecture and Setting

Architecturally, the nine buildings in the historic district illustrate the fraternity house as a distinct building type on college campuses from the mid-20th century, and display architectural styles that are typical of that period. In contrast to the nearby dormitories, which were all built in a utilitarian institutional style, the fraternity houses are strongly residential in character and setting. Although built under the auspices of the University with plans approved by the OWU Board of Trustees, the fraternities were given wide latitude in planning their houses. Each fraternity selected its own architect and raised its own funds to supplement the \$100,000 University loan. One restriction placed on the buildings was that no house could exceed \$225,000 in cost. Five of the chapter houses are traditional in form and style, utilizing Colonial Revival and Georgian Revival motifs that were intended to evoke the dignity and order represented by the Greek letter fraternity housed inside. These include Phi Gamma Delta (building 1, 1954), Sigma Alpha Epsilon (building 2, 1954), Phi Delta Theta (building 3, 1960), Phi Kappa Psi (building 4, 1960), and Sigma Phi Epsilon (building 7, 1962).

Four of these were designed by the same Columbus architectural firm of Sims, Cornelius and Schooley, a company that still exists today as Schooley Caldwell. Each of these buildings is horizontal in overall form and massing, with symmetrical facades, traditional rooflines, and Revival style elements such as exterior end chimneys, brick quoins, double hung windows with keystones at headers, central entrances with entablatures or broken pediments, and front or side

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porches with wood columns. Communal living was emphasized with shared sleeping rooms, bathrooms, and shower rooms on upper floors and large dining and living rooms for gathering and public activities. The interior layout is similar in each: The basement level is the location for the dining room, kitchen, recreation room, and chapter room; the first-floor houses reception, living room or lounge, the housemother's quarters, and sometimes a library or student rooms; and the upper floors hold dormitory-type sleeping rooms, communal restrooms, and individual study rooms. As examples, please see the original floor plan drawings for the Phi Gamma Delta and Sigma Alpha Epsilon houses in Attachment B.

The four remaining fraternity houses in the district, built between 1961 and 1963, made a departure from more traditional styles and forms, with three venturing into Modernism. The Delta Tau Delta House (building 8), built in 1962 to a design by Nitschke & McCoy, leans toward a Craftsman influence but incorporates a contemporary feel in the design of the flared hipped roof, shed-roofed dormers, projecting bay window, and casement window fenestration. Beta Theta Pi (building 5, 1961) has Modernist elements that include its overall block-shaped massing with projecting piers and stacked spandrels at both front and rear elevations, along with the recessed off-center entrance and raised terrace that substitutes for a porch. Finally, the last two buildings constructed in the district have a more modest residential scale than the other fraternities, with Modernist hallmarks that include low projecting T-plan wings with broad overhanging gables, vertical window fenestration with large areas of glazing, and terrace patios at building entrances. The exterior design of these buildings clearly differentiates between the social/public and residential/private interior functions, with a connecting dormitory block placed to the rear or side of the low projecting wings. Modernist characteristics of the Sigma Chi house (building 9, 1962), designed by Van Buren, Blackburn & Associates, include the matching knee wall that partially encloses the recessed corner porch with the fraternity name carved into the stone cap, and the subtle artistic element in the wall above it created by a pattern of raised bricks. Simpler in form and design is the Alpha Sigma Phi house (building 6, 1963), designed by Dalton-Dalton Associates of Cleveland. Its use of repetitive vertical glazing that is recessed within a colonnade of raised brick piers also gives it a Modernist character. Please see the elevations and floor plans for this building in Attachment B.

Finally, the setting for this district is noteworthy as an example of a collegiate residential landscape designed to create a sense of community, with buildings centered around a central green space. Whereas a more formal campus arrangement is sometimes called a quad or quadrangle, the fraternity buildings here form more of an ellipse that is connected by a winding drive. Although many references are made to this area being known as Fraternity Row early on, that term began to decline in use by 1962, when it became more commonly known as Fraternity Hill. This term reflects both the placement of the buildings around central green, and also the raised height that is encountered when approaching the area from the north. It identified the area as more of a *place* since many interfraternity activities were held on the green, as well as in the houses. For many Ohio Wesleyan students, "the Hill" was an important gathering spot and hub of campus social activity. It remains so today.

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Summary

The Ohio Wesleyan University Fraternity Hill Historic District provides an illustration of the important role of fraternities at the University during the mid-20th century, a period in which the post-WWII demand for housing resulted in the creation of a men's residential campus. The placement of nine architect-designed fraternity houses around a winding drive and green space demonstrates the prominent place, social purpose and communal nature of fraternities on the OWU campus during this period. The buildings also illustrate the key role of the chapter house in fraternity life, with its emphasis on communal living and social activities. Although men's dormitories were also built during this period, Fraternity Hill stands apart due to its unique arrangement of distinctive architect-designed houses in popular styles of the day that were built in a cohesive, landscaped setting. The district has a high level of historic and architectural integrity, with original buildings and features remaining intact.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 12

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

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- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 17 | Easting: 323302 | Northing: 4462601 |
| 2. Zone: 17 | Easting: 323623 | Northing: 4462583 |
| 3. Zone: 17 | Easting: 323616 | Northing: 4462431 |
| 4. Zone: 17 | Easting: 323295 | Northing: 4462450 |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at the southeast corner of the property at 119 Montrose Avenue, go east on Park Avenue to a point that is 470 feet west of the northeast corner of S. Liberty Street and Park Avenue; from there, head north along a straight line until reaching a point aligning with the south property line of 65 Oak Hill Avenue; head west along this line until reaching the east property line of 149 Oak Hill Avenue; then turn south along this line and continue south along the east property lines of the buildings on Montrose Avenue until reaching the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries encompass the tract of land historically associated with the fraternity chapter houses on Ohio Wesleyan University's Fraternity Hill. Excluded from the boundaries are the dormitories that front onto Liberty Street to the east of the district, as they represent a change in physical character and function. Architecturally, the three dormitories are stark, rectangular, and flat-roofed Modernistic structures that stand in contrast to the fraternities that are more residential in character and spaced around a winding drive and central green. Although built concurrently, the dormitories are sufficiently separate in purpose and distinct in appearance from the fraternities to be excluded from this district. Also excluded are the residential properties on the adjacent streets of Montrose Avenue and Oak Hill Avenue. While some of these are university owned, they were never used for the fraternity chapter house purpose that defines the proposed historic district.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Judith B. Williams
organization: Historic Preservation Consultant
street & number: 854 Pullman Way
city or town: Columbus state: Ohio zip code: 43212
e-mail Judywilliams.hpc@gmail.com
telephone: 614-736-3540
date: May 22, 2019

Ohio Wesleyan University Fraternity Hill Historic District
Name of Property

Delaware County, Ohio
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Ohio Wesleyan University Fraternity Hill Historic District

City or Vicinity: Delaware

County: Delaware

State: Ohio

Photographer: Judith B. Williams

Date Photographed: April, 2015 (The photos included with this nomination accurately depict the historic district as it exists at the time of the nomination's submission in May of 2019.)

- 1 of 25: Looking northeast toward 35 and 23 Williams Drive
- 2 of 25: 35 Williams Drive, looking northeast
- 3 of 25: 35 Williams Drive, looking northwest
- 4 of 25: Garage behind 35 Williams Drive, looking northeast
- 5 of 25: 23 Williams Drive, looking north
- 6 of 25: 23 Williams Drive, looking west
- 7 of 25: 19 Williams Drive, looking northeast
- 8 of 25: 19 Williams Drive, looking north
- 9 of 25: Looking north toward 19 and 23 Williams Drive
- 10 of 25: 15 Williams Drive, looking north
- 11 of 25: Garage behind 15 Williams Drive, looking west

Ohio Wesleyan University Fraternity Hill Historic District

Delaware County, Ohio
County and State

Name of Property

- 12 of 25: 9 and 15 Williams Drive, looking northwest
- 13 of 25: 9 Williams Drive, looking northeast
- 14 of 25: Looking east outside district toward dormitories
- 15 of 25: Looking west across the green toward 20, 23 and 19 Williams Drive
- 16 of 25: Looking west on Williams Drive (10 Williams Drive on the left)
- 17 of 25: 4 Williams Drive, looking east
- 18 of 25: 4 Williams Drive, detail, looking south
- 19 of 25: 10 Williams Drive, looking south
- 20 of 25: Looking west toward 20 Williams Drive
- 21 of 25: 20 Williams Drive, looking south
- 22 of 25: 20 Williams Drive, looking northeast
- 23 of 25: 30 Williams Drive, looking south
- 24 of 25: 30 Williams Drive, looking southeast
- 25 of 25: 30 Williams Drive, entrance detail, looking southeast

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Ohio Wesleyan University
Fraternity Hill Historic District
Williams Drive, Delaware, Ohio
ATTACHMENT A
MAPS & IMAGES

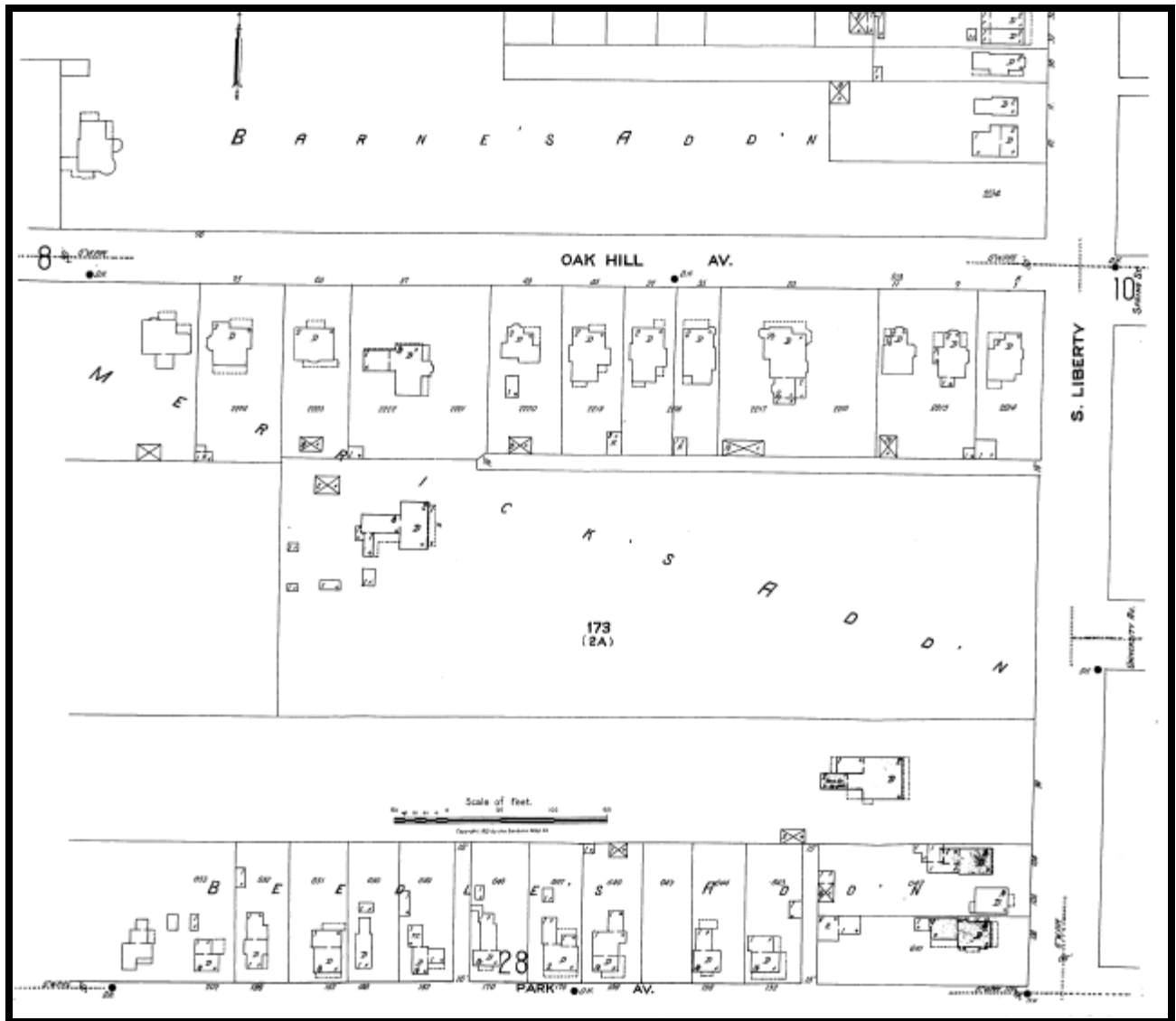


Figure 1.
1923 Sanborn Insurance Company Map
Williams Campus area
(showing home of Professor William G. Williams)

Ohio Wesleyan University
Fraternity Hill Historic District
Williams Drive, Delaware, Ohio
ATTACHMENT A
MAPS & IMAGES

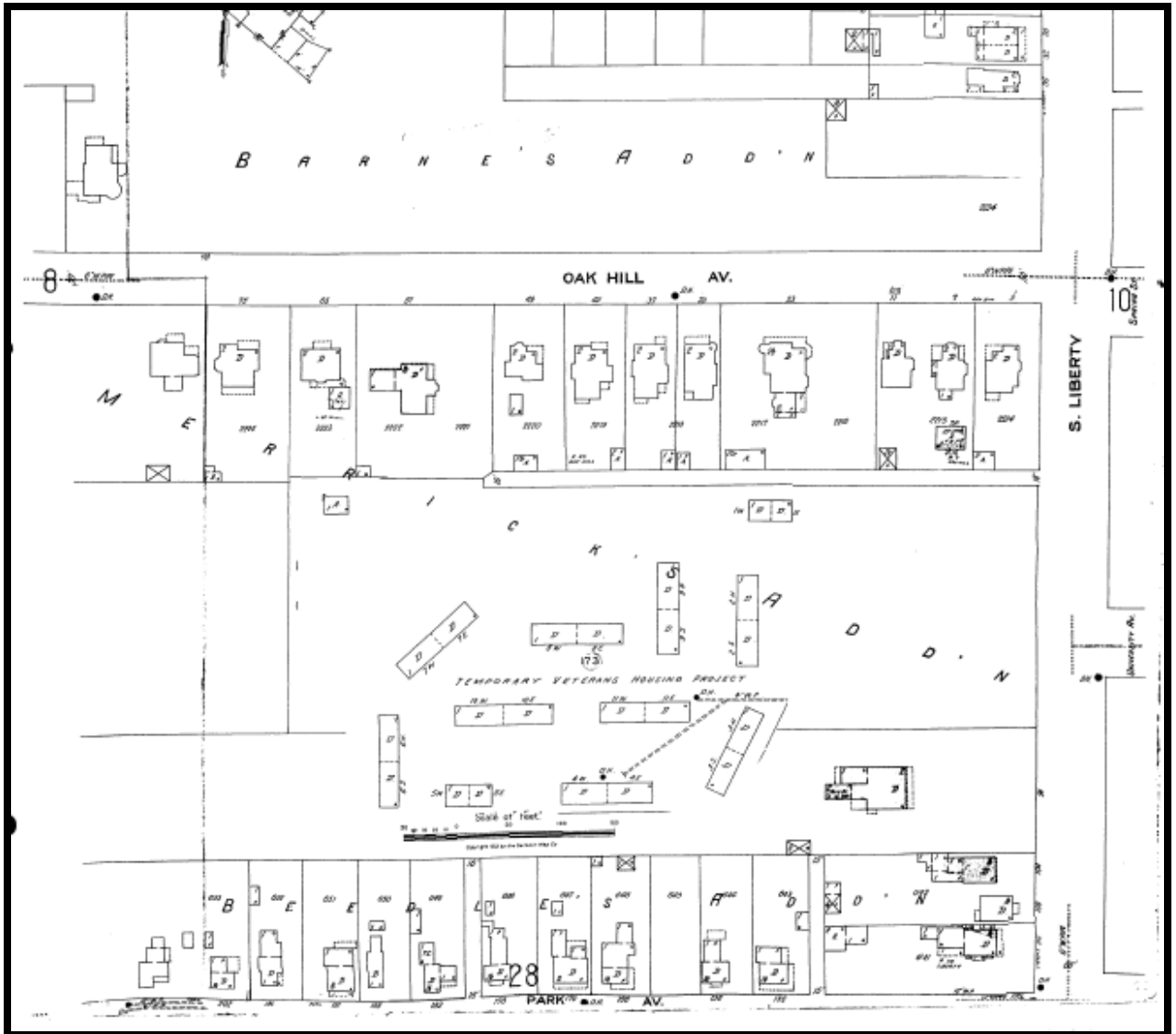


Figure 2.
1950 Sanborn Insurance Company Map
Williams Campus area
(showing barracks as temporary veteran's housing)

Ohio Wesleyan University
 Fraternity Hill Historic District
 Williams Drive, Delaware, Ohio
ATTACHMENT A
MAPS & IMAGES

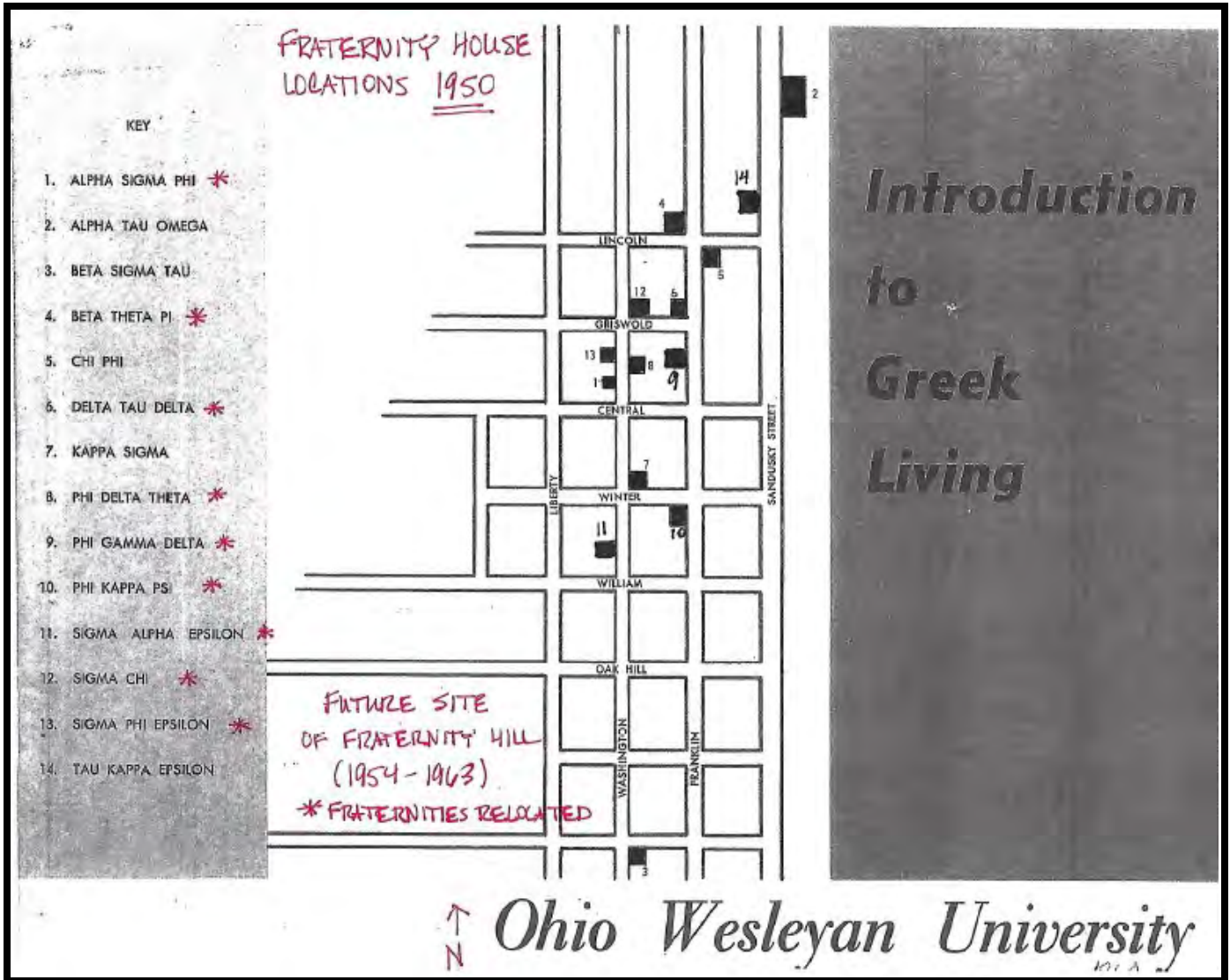


Figure 3.
 Fraternity House Locations in 1950
 (showing off-campus houses and future site of Fraternity Hill)

Ohio Wesleyan University
 Fraternity Hill Historic District
 Williams Drive, Delaware, Ohio
ATTACHMENT A
MAPS & IMAGES

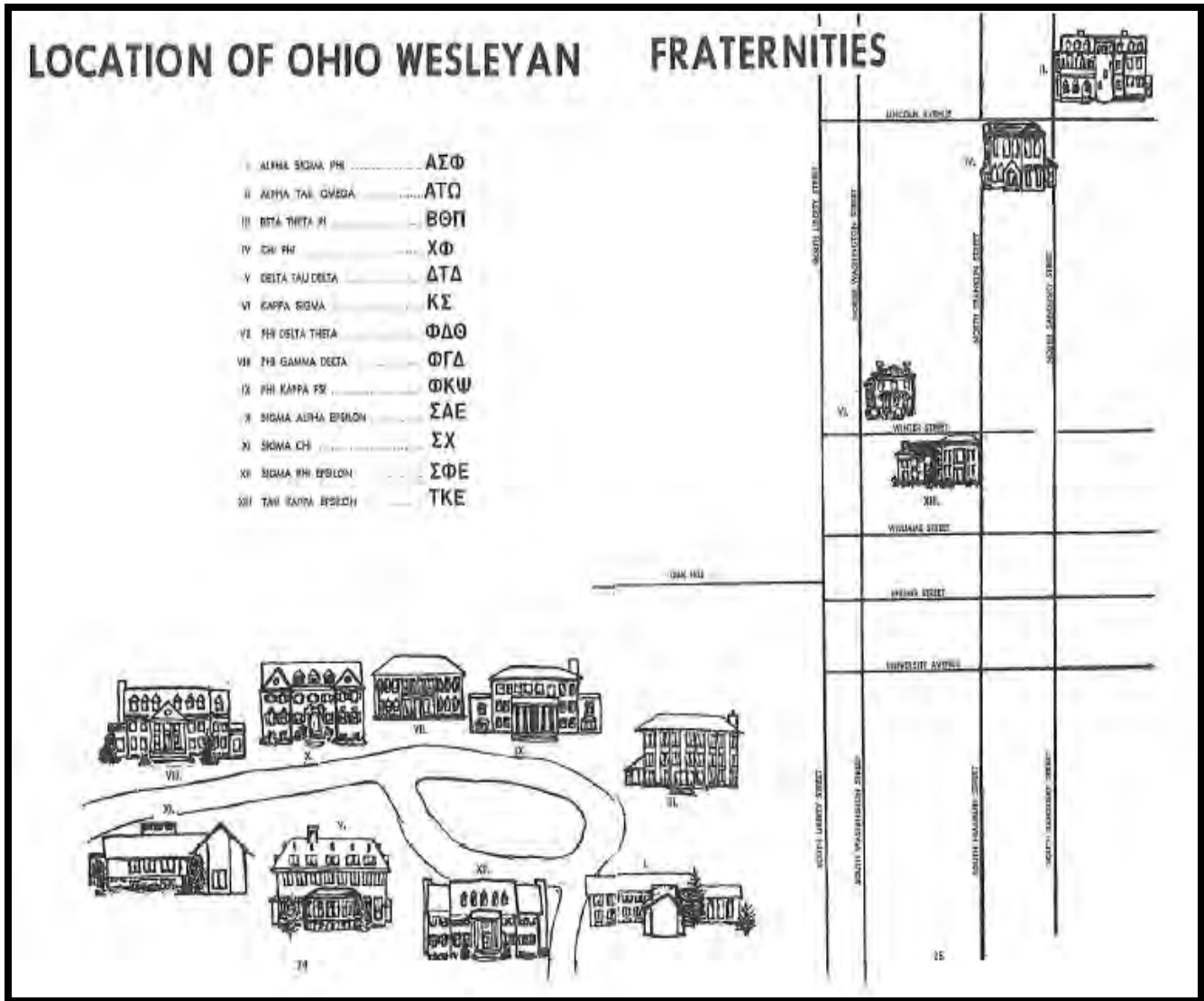


Figure 4.
 Fraternity House Locations in 1967

Ohio Wesleyan University
Fraternity Hill Historic District
Williams Drive, Delaware, Ohio
ATTACHMENT A
MAPS & IMAGES

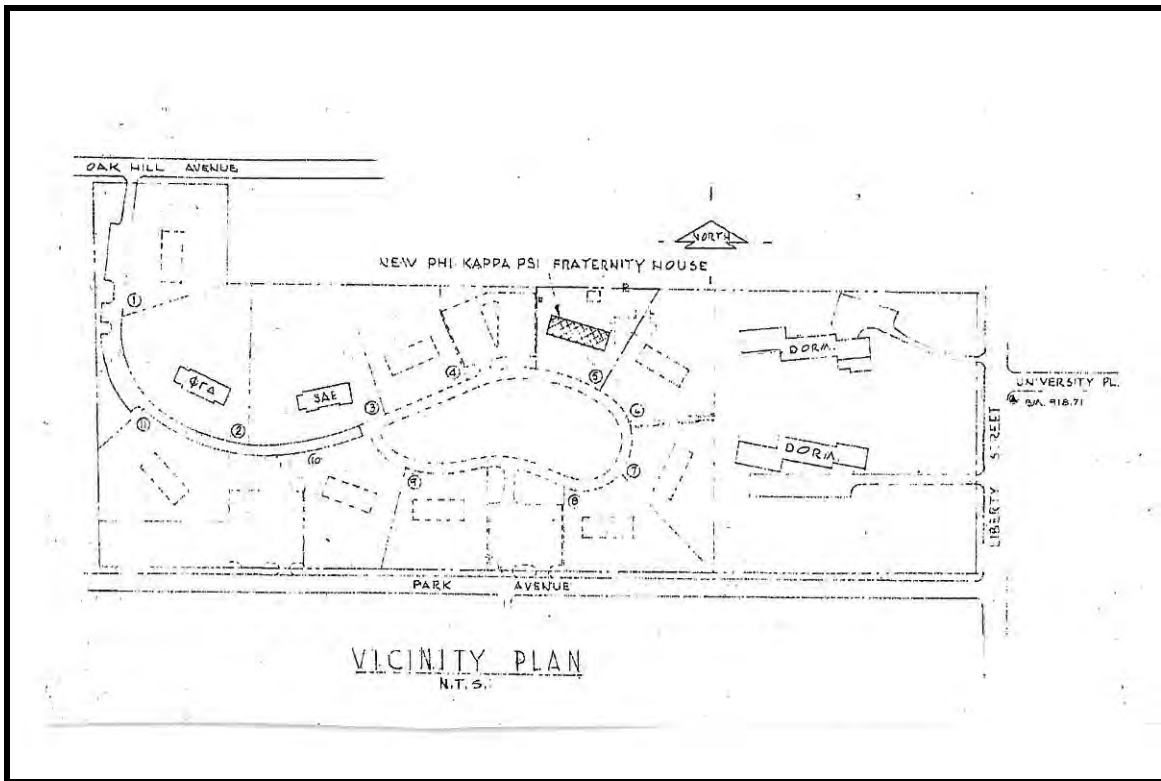


Figure 5.
Vicinity Plan, c. 1958

**Ohio Wesleyan University
Fraternity Hill Historic District
Williams Drive, Delaware, Ohio
ATTACHMENT A
MAPS & IMAGES**



Figure 6.
Post Card Aerial View of Fraternity Hill, c. 1970s
by Tom Root Air Photos, Plymouth, Ohio

**Ohio Wesleyan University
Fraternity Hill Historic District
Williams Drive, Delaware, Ohio
ATTACHMENT A
MAPS & IMAGES**

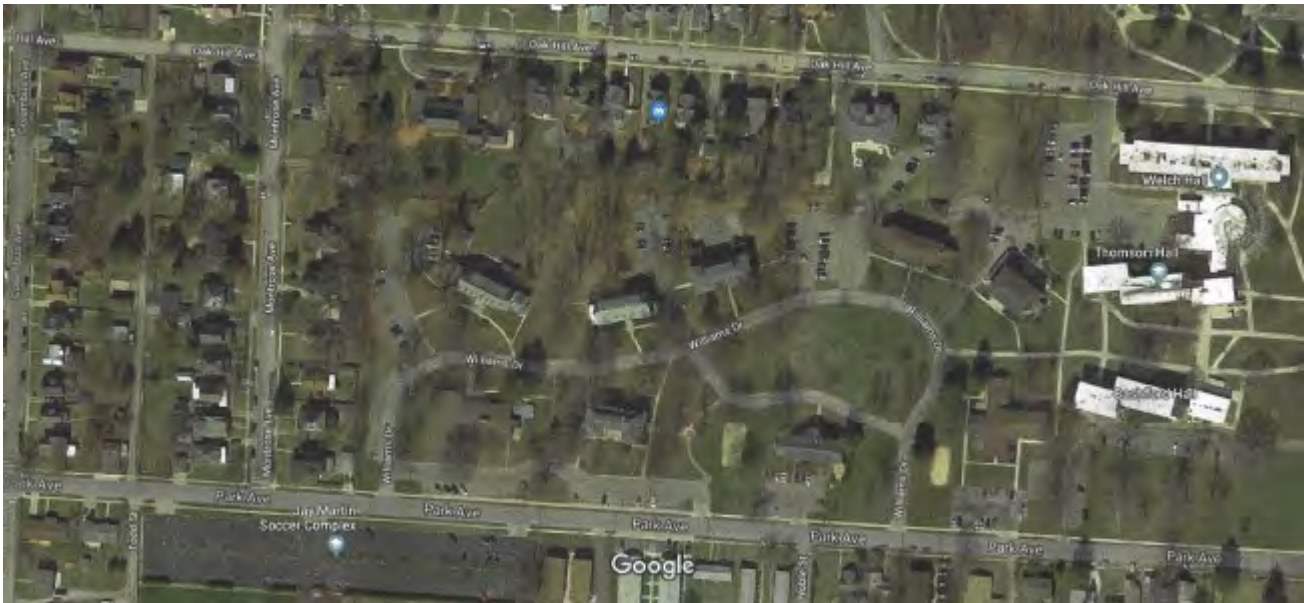


Figure 7.
Aerial View Map
Delaware County Auditor's website
Accessed April, 2019

Ohio Wesleyan University
 Fraternity Hill Historic District
 Williams Drive, Delaware, Ohio
 ATTACHMENT A
 MAPS & IMAGES



Figure 8.
 Ohio Wesleyan University
 2019 Campus Map

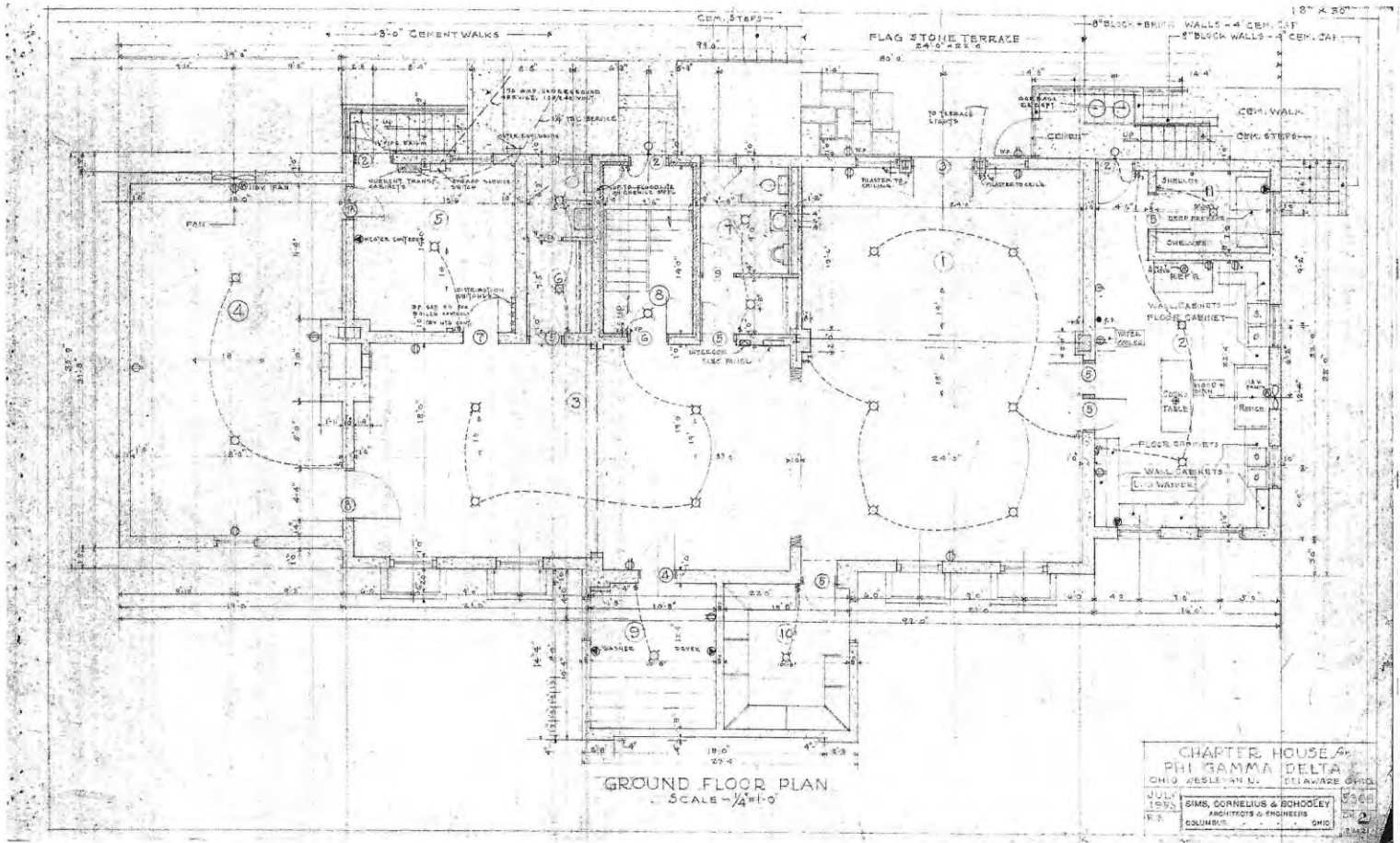
Ohio Wesleyan University
 Fraternity Hill Historic District
 Williams Drive, Delaware, Ohio
ATTACHMENT B
ORIGINAL BUILDING PLANS



Front Elevation

Phi Gamma Delta
 35 Williams Drive

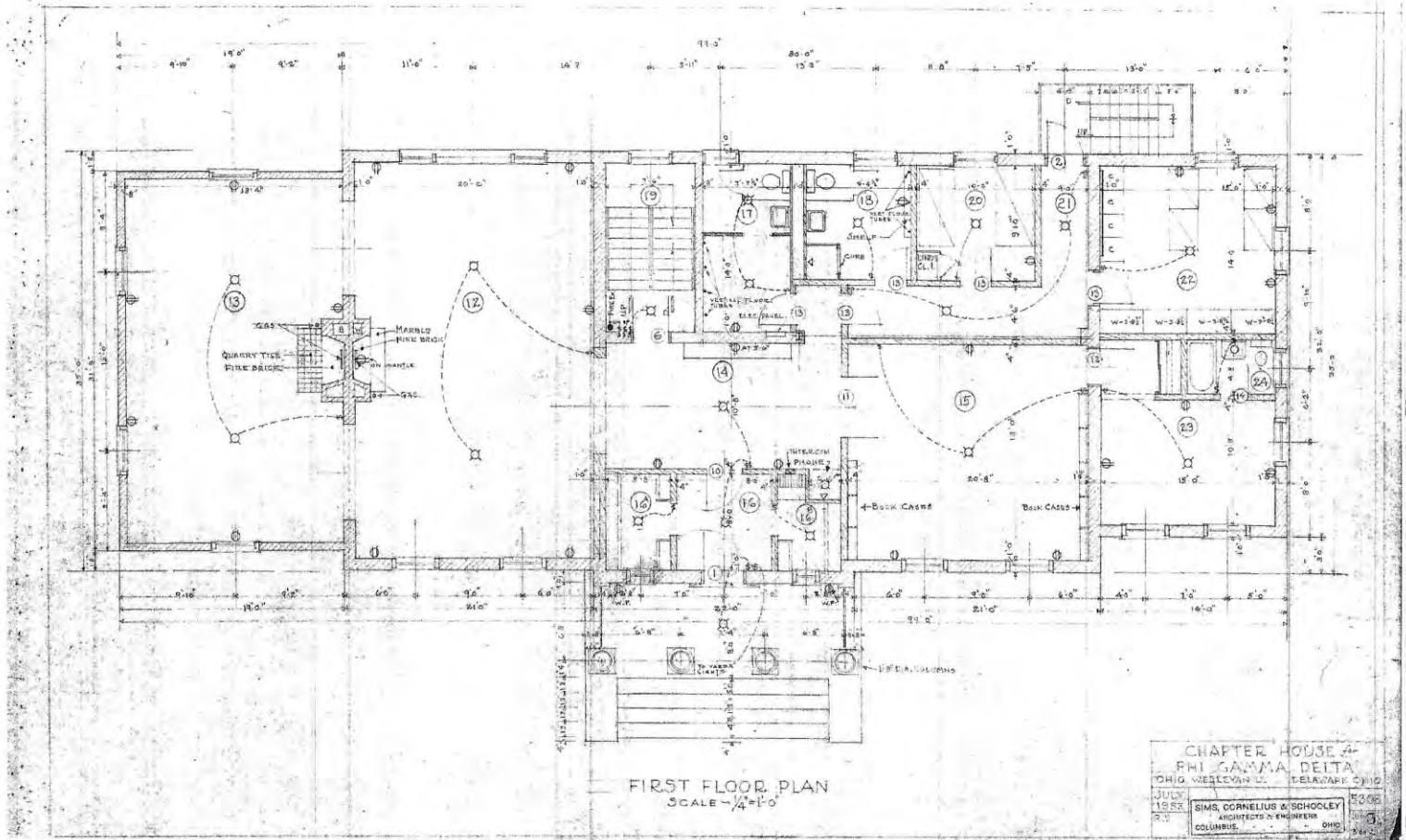
Ohio Wesleyan University
Fraternity Hill Historic District
Williams Drive, Delaware, Ohio
ATTACHMENT B
ORIGINAL BUILDING PLANS



Ground Floor Plan

Phi Gamma Delta
35 Williams Drive

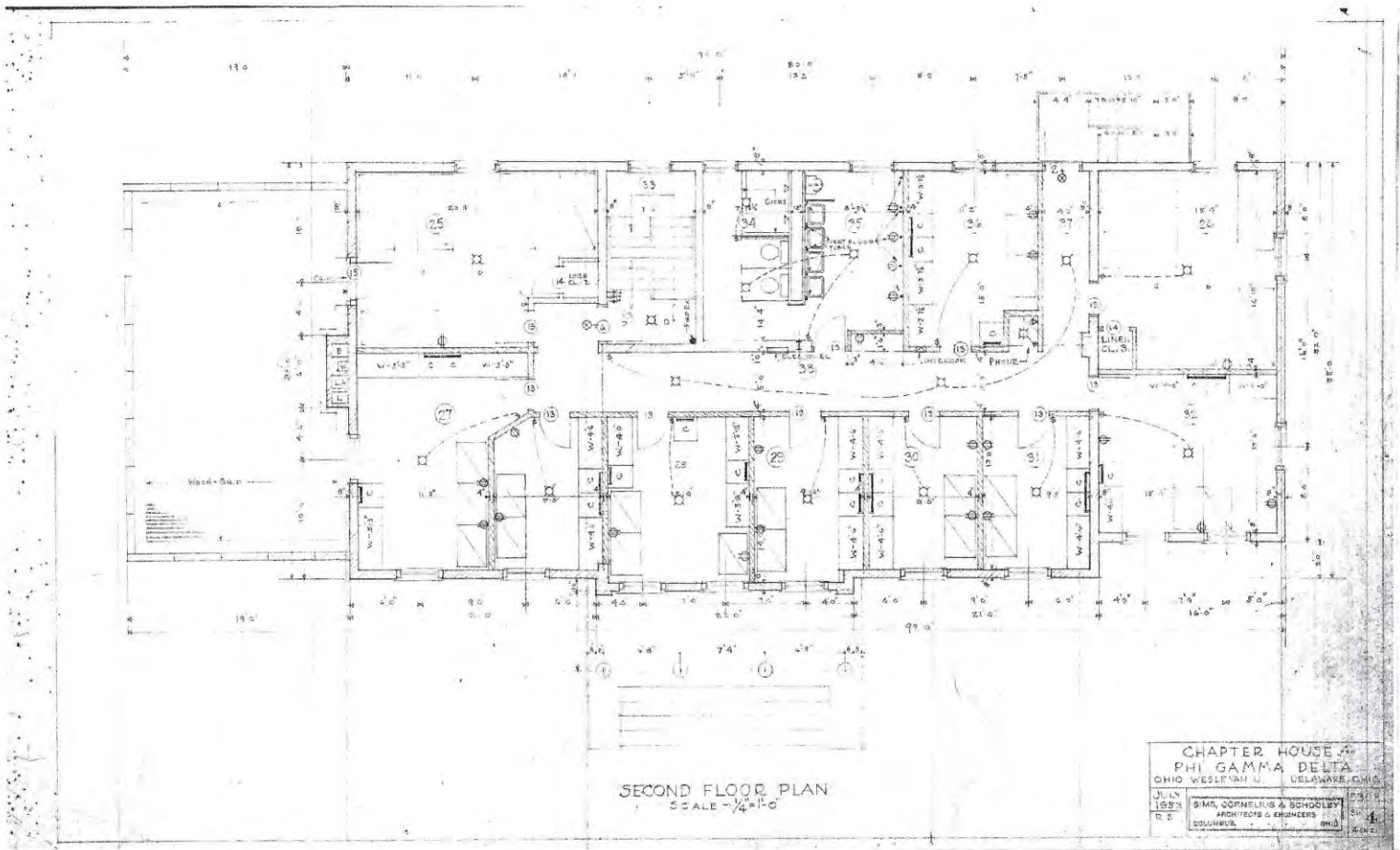
Ohio Wesleyan University
Fraternity Hill Historic District
Williams Drive, Delaware, Ohio
ATTACHMENT B
ORIGINAL BUILDING PLANS



First Floor Plan

Phi Gamma Delta
35 Williams Drive

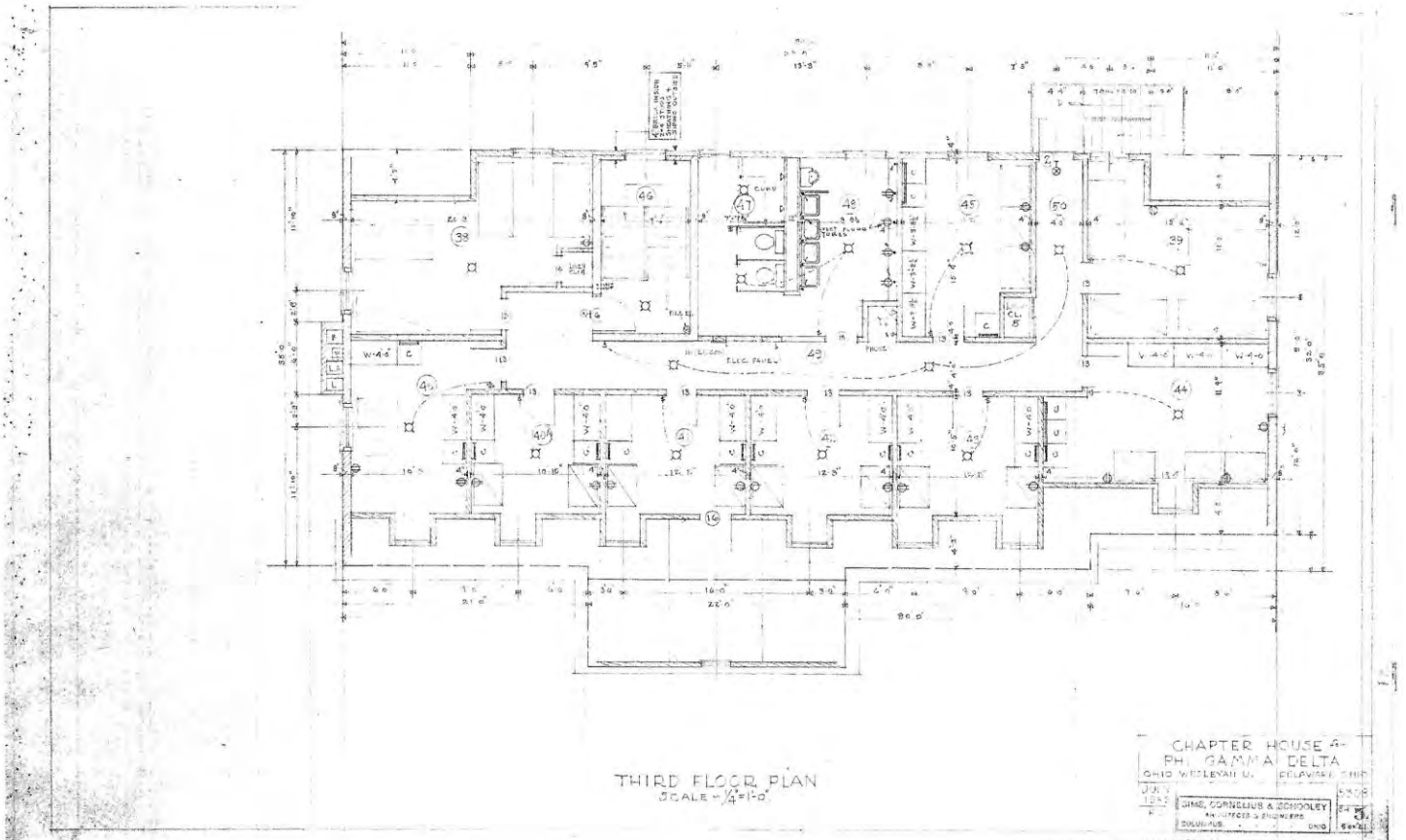
Ohio Wesleyan University
Fraternity Hill Historic District
Williams Drive, Delaware, Ohio
ATTACHMENT B
ORIGINAL BUILDING PLANS



Second Floor Plan

Phi Gamma Delta
35 Williams Drive

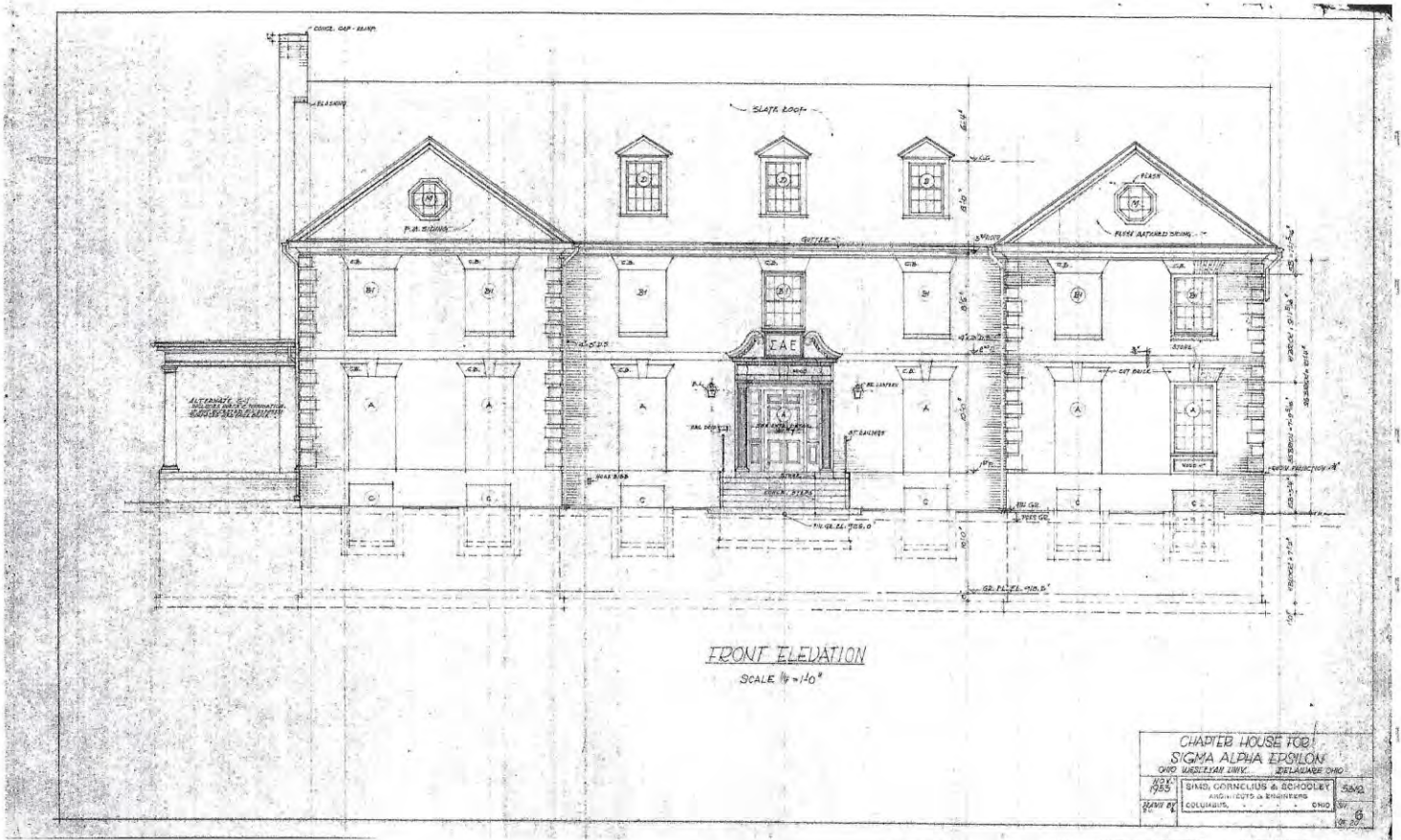
Ohio Wesleyan University
Fraternity Hill Historic District
Williams Drive, Delaware, Ohio
ATTACHMENT B
ORIGINAL BUILDING PLANS



Third Floor Plan

Phi Gamma Delta
35 Williams Drive

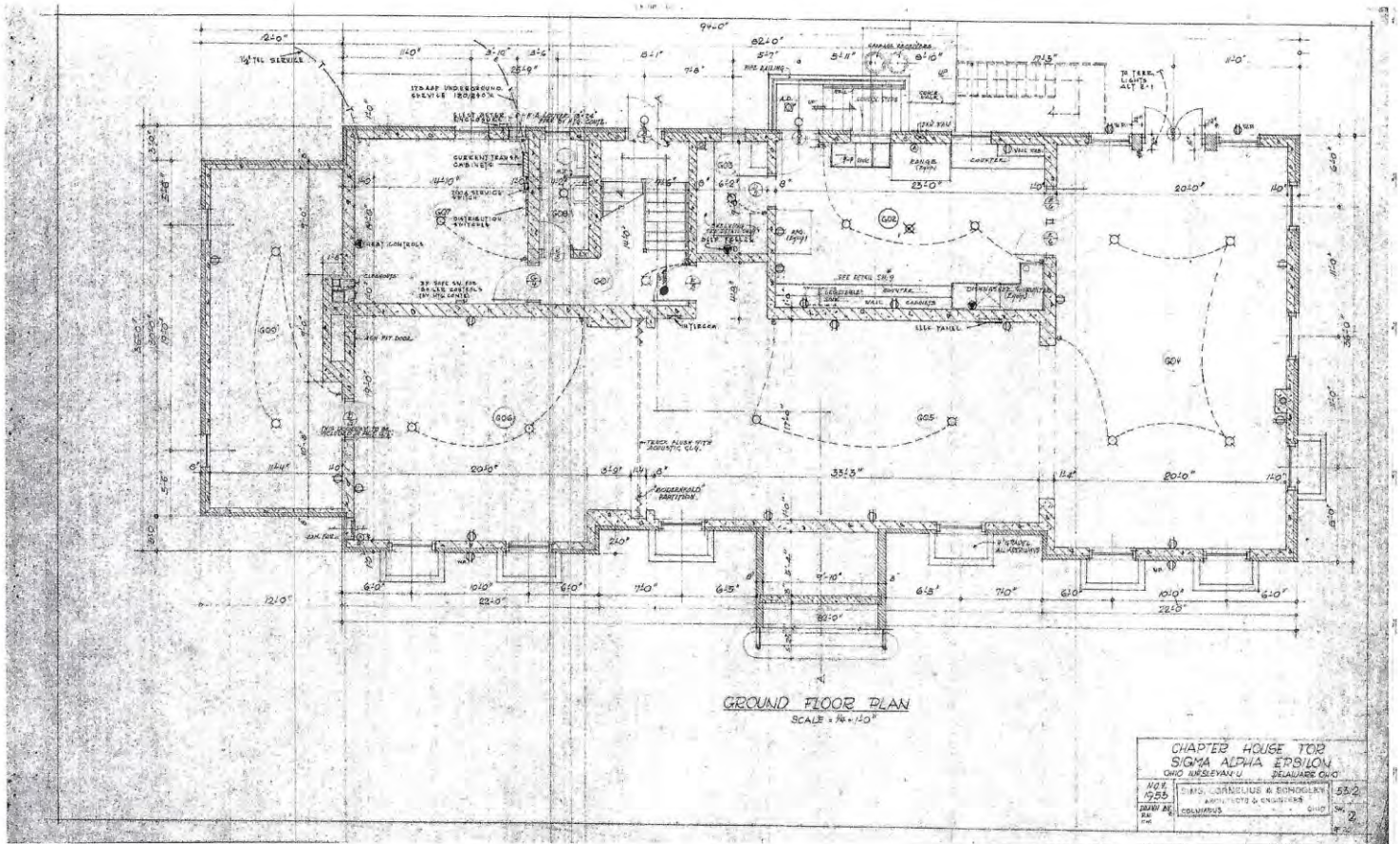
Ohio Wesleyan University
 Fraternity Hill Historic District
 Williams Drive, Delaware, Ohio
ATTACHMENT B
ORIGINAL BUILDING PLANS



Front Elevation

Sigma Alpha Epsilon
 23 Williams Drive

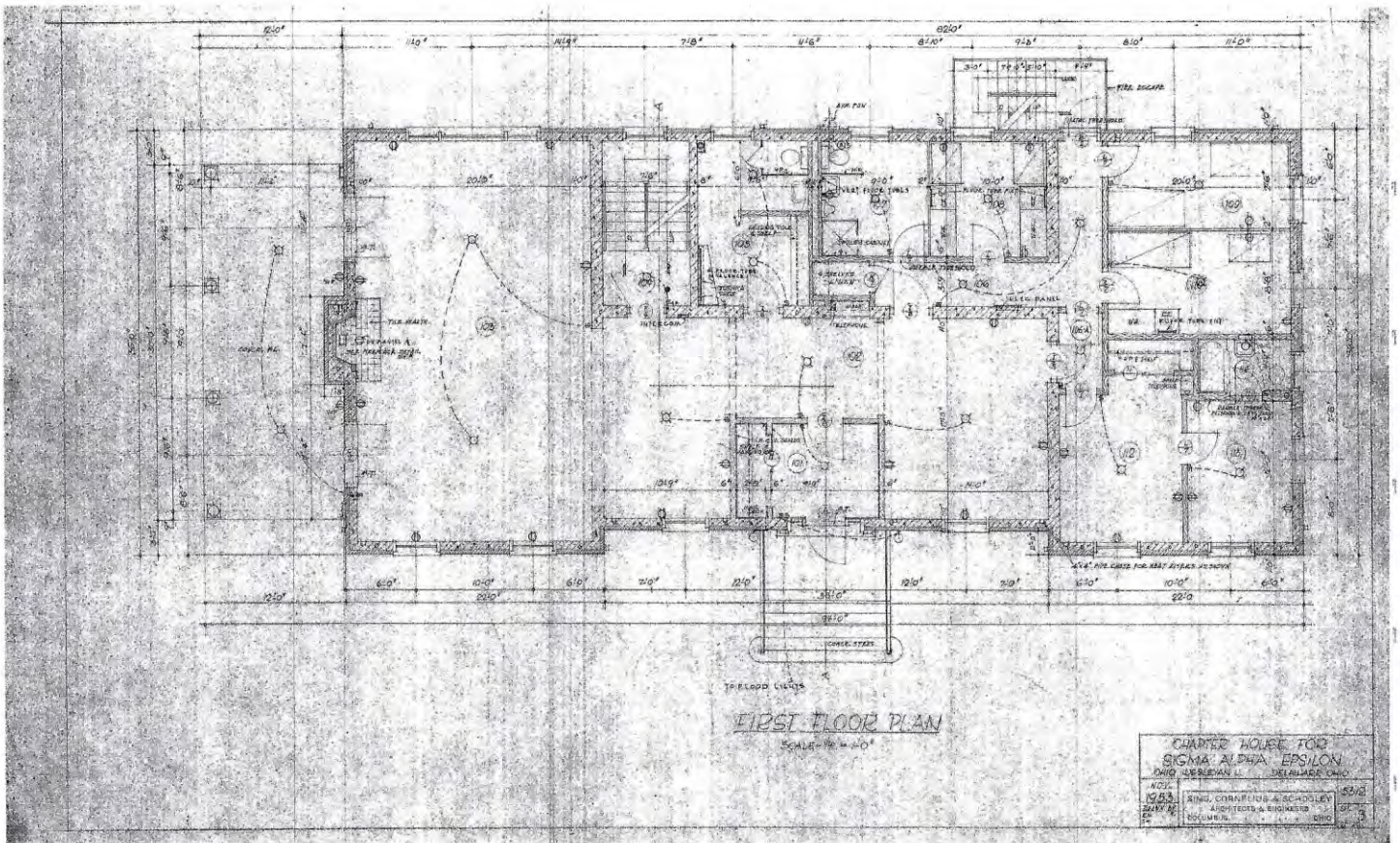
Ohio Wesleyan University
 Fraternity Hill Historic District
 Williams Drive, Delaware, Ohio
ATTACHMENT B
ORIGINAL BUILDING PLANS



Ground Floor Plan

Sigma Alpha Epsilon
 23 Williams Drive

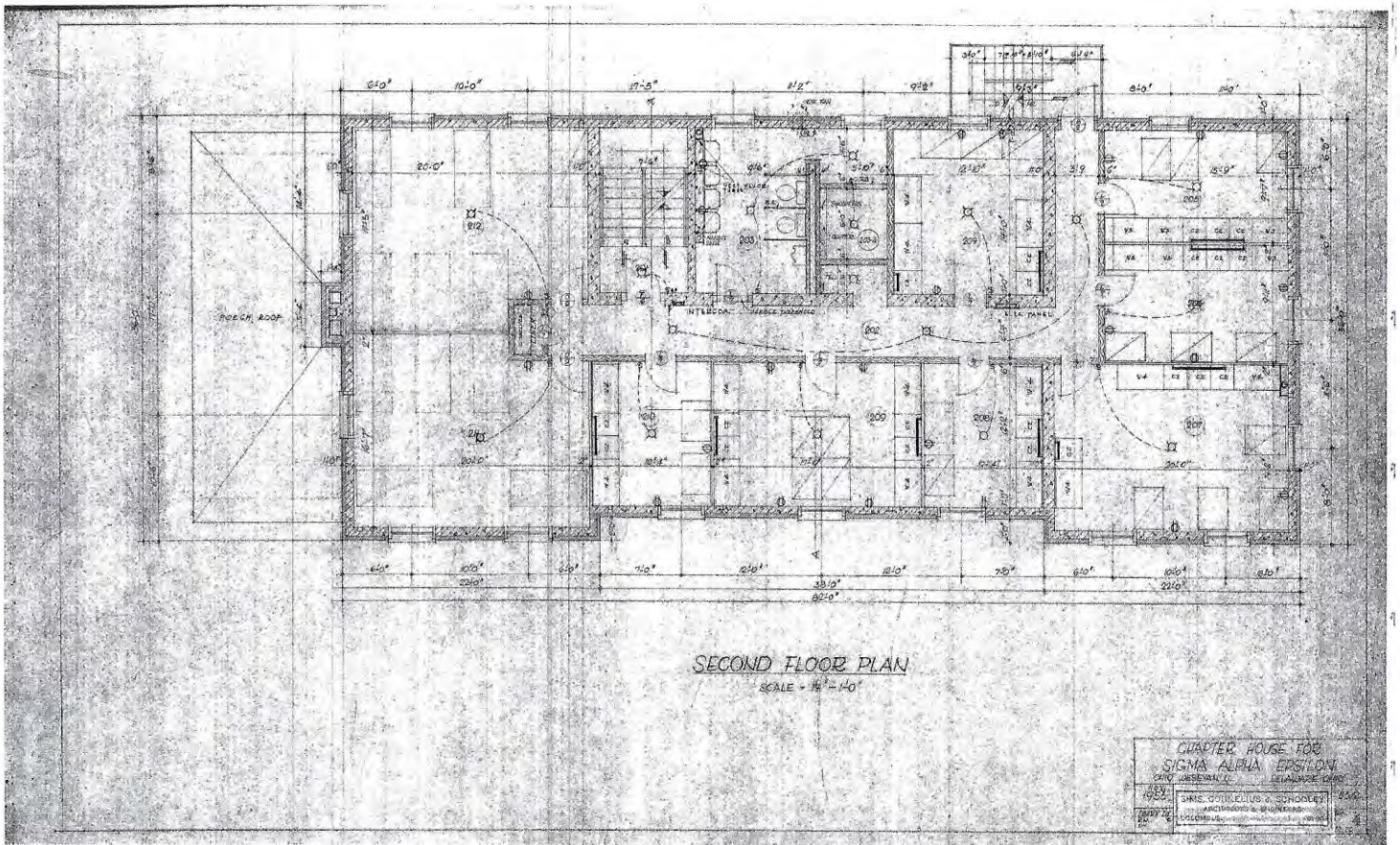
Ohio Wesleyan University
Fraternity Hill Historic District
Williams Drive, Delaware, Ohio
ATTACHMENT B
ORIGINAL BUILDING PLANS



First Floor Plan

Sigma Alpha Epsilon
23 Williams Drive

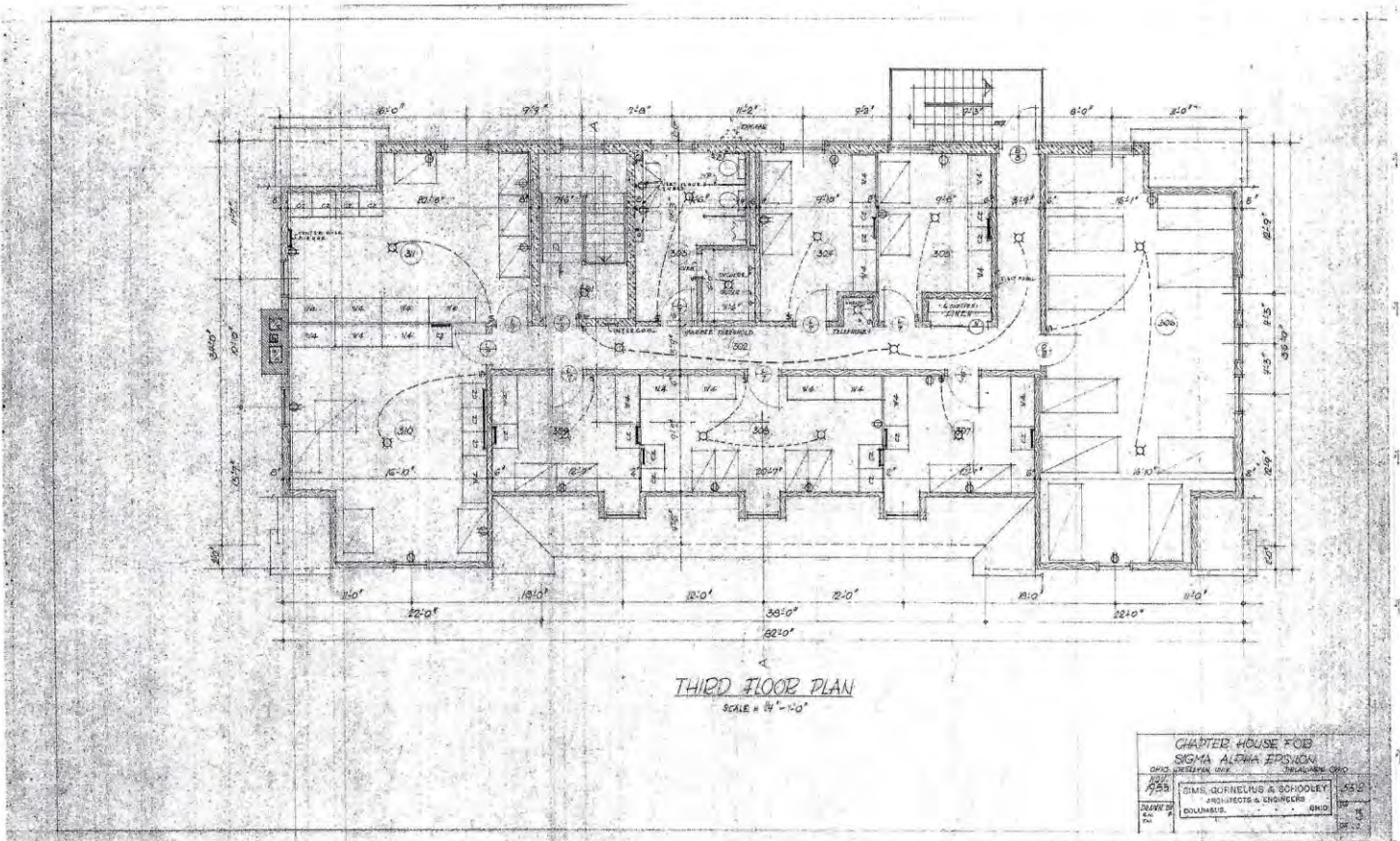
Ohio Wesleyan University
Fraternity Hill Historic District
Williams Drive, Delaware, Ohio
ATTACHMENT B
ORIGINAL BUILDING PLANS



Second Floor Plan

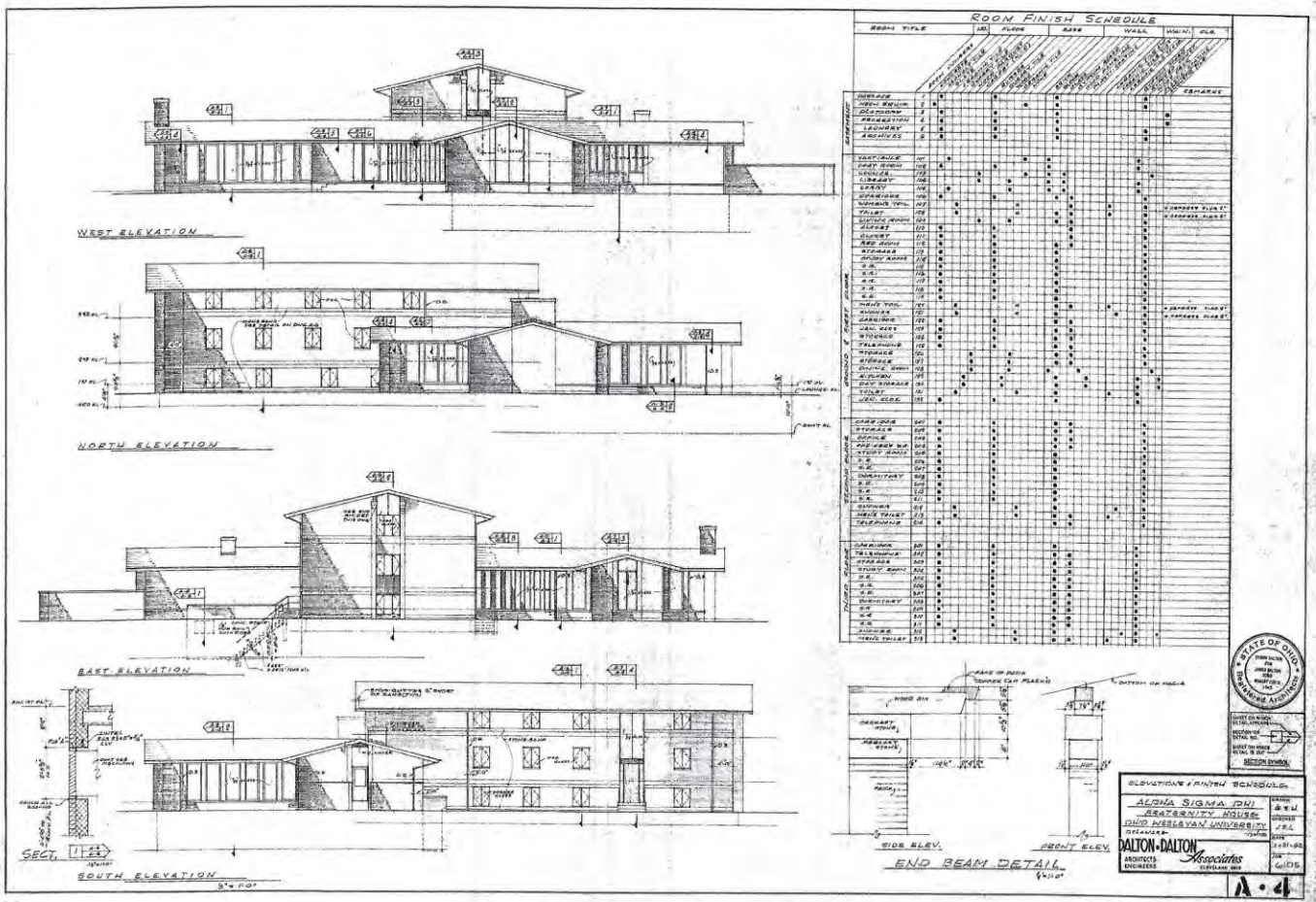
Sigma Alpha Epsilon
23 Williams Drive

Ohio Wesleyan University
Fraternity Hill Historic District
Williams Drive, Delaware, Ohio
ATTACHMENT B
ORIGINAL BUILDING PLANS



Third Floor Plan
Sigma Alpha Epsilon
23 Williams Drive

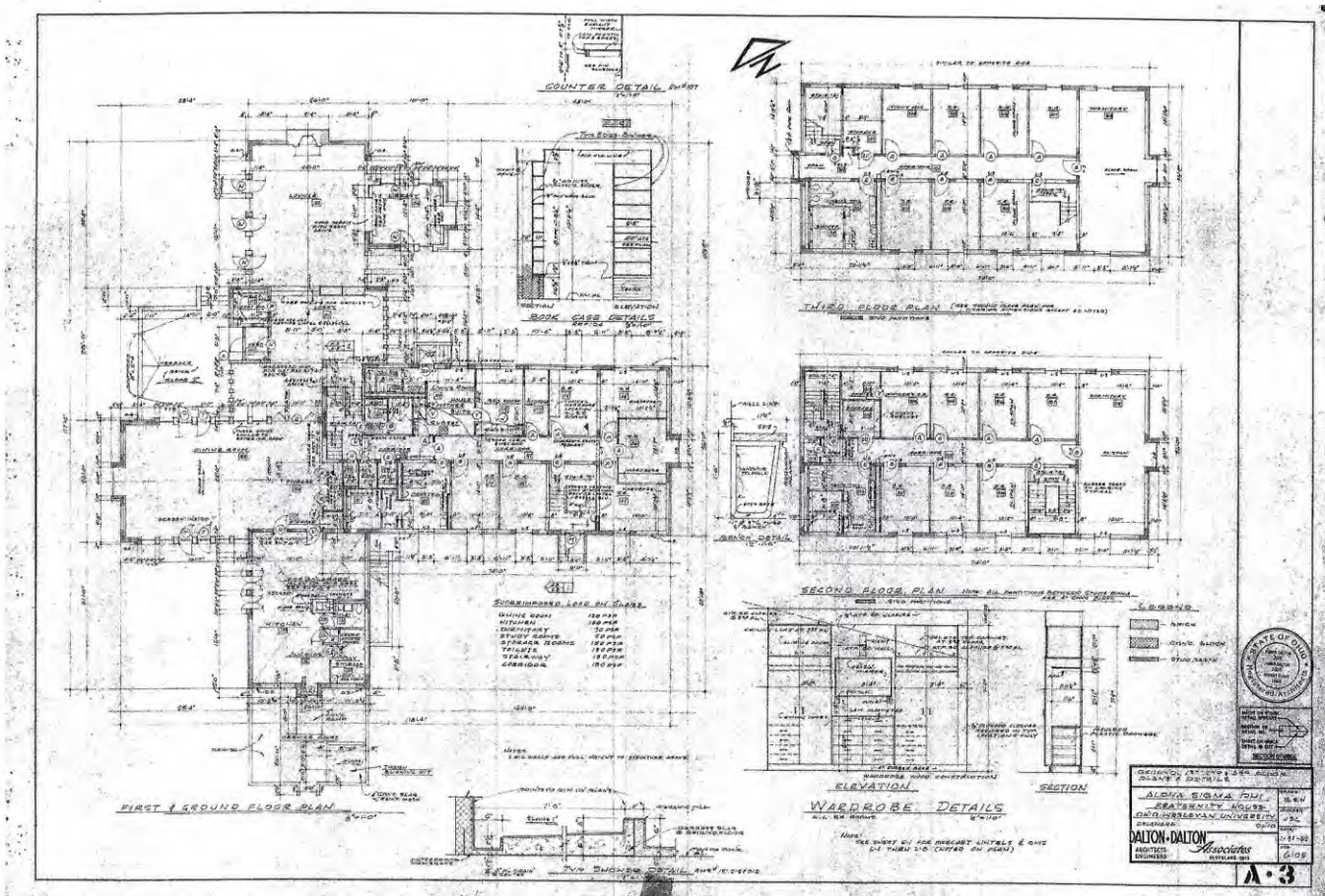
Ohio Wesleyan University
 Fraternity Hill Historic District
 Williams Drive, Delaware, Ohio
ATTACHMENT B
ORIGINAL BUILDING PLANS



Building Elevations

Alpha Sigma Phi
 4 Williams Drive

Ohio Wesleyan University
 Fraternity Hill Historic District
 Williams Drive, Delaware, Ohio
ATTACHMENT B
ORIGINAL BUILDING PLANS

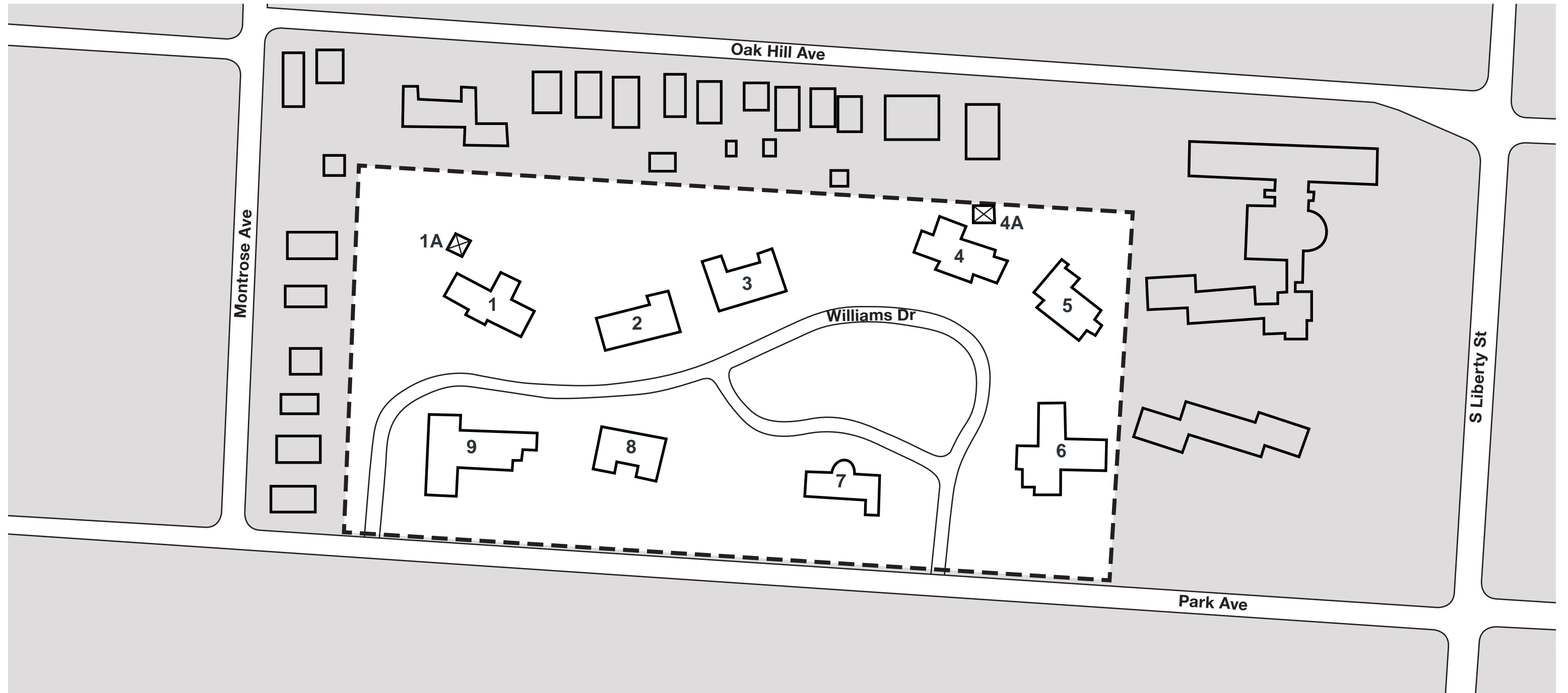


Building Plans

Alpha Sigma Phi
 4 Williams Drive

OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY FRATERNITY HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Delaware, Delaware County, Ohio



Legend

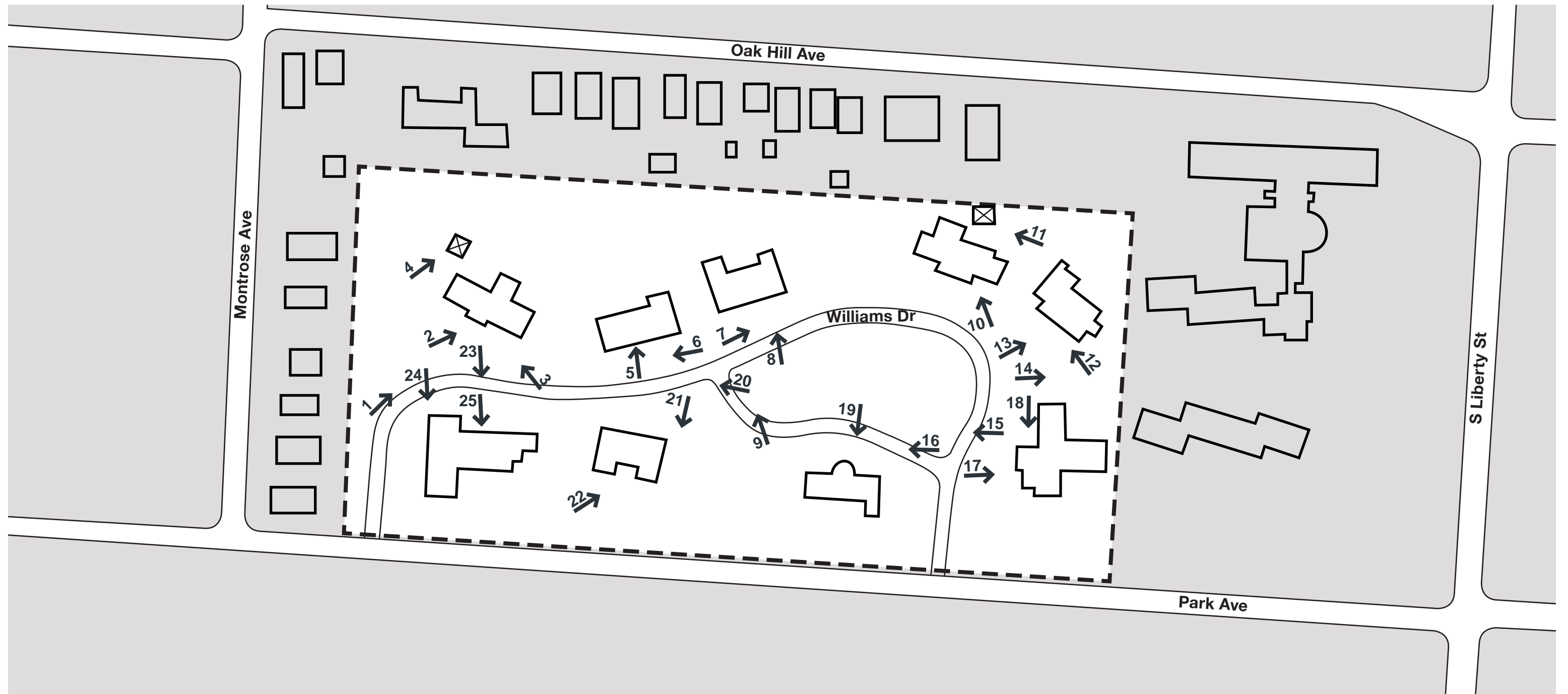
- District Boundary
- Contributing Building
- Non-Contributing Building

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Phi Gamma Delta, 35 Williams Drive | 6. Alpha Sigma Phi, 4 Williams Drive |
| 2. Sigma Alpha Epsilon, 23 Williams Drive | 7. Sigma Phi Epsilon, 10 Williams Drive |
| 3. Phi Delta Theta, 19 Williams Drive | 8. Delta Tau Delta, 20 Williams Drive |
| 4. Phi Kappa Psi, 15 Williams Drive | 9. Sigma Chi, 30 Williams Drive |
| 5. Beta Theta Pi, 9 Williams Drive | |






OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY FRATERNITY HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

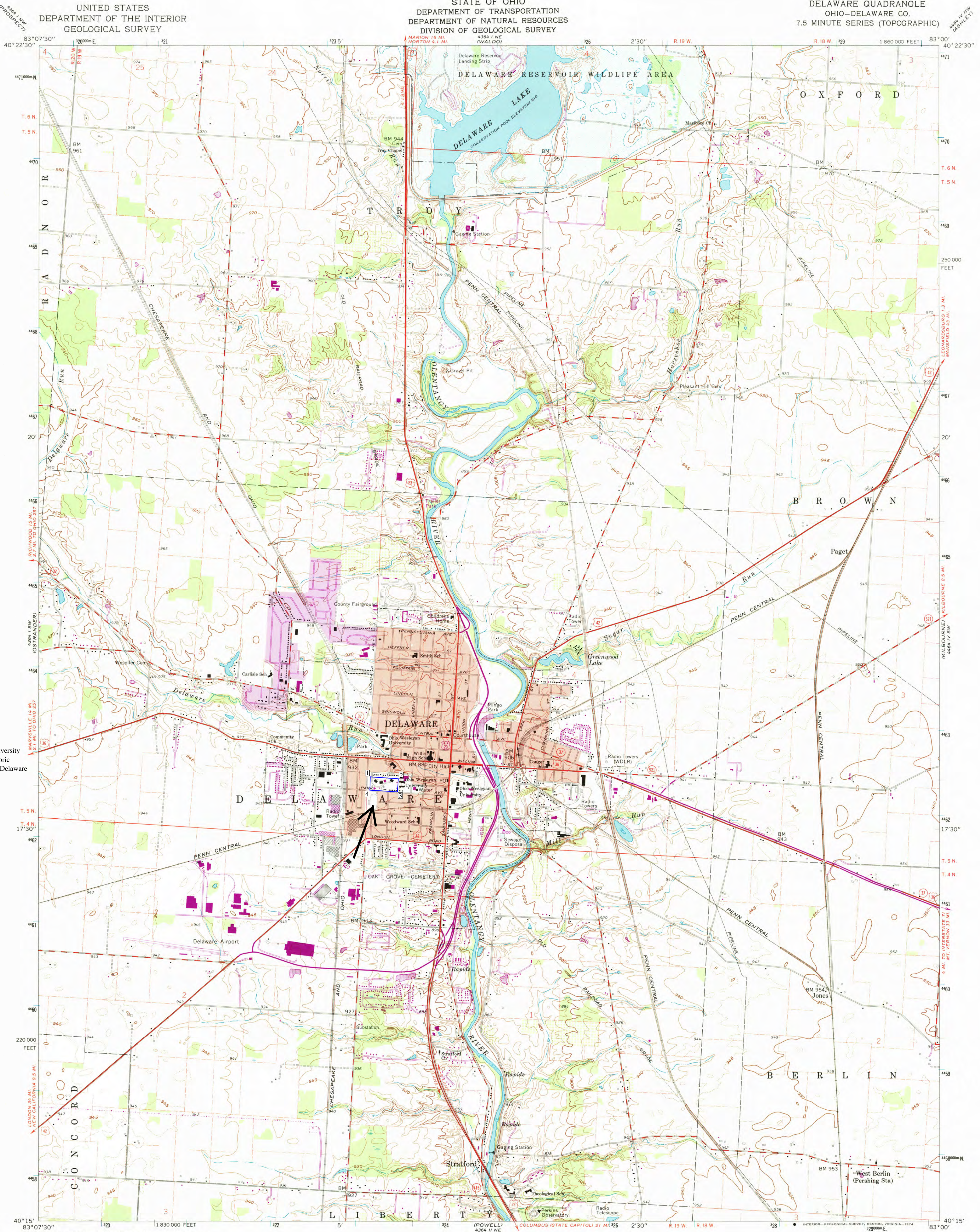
Delaware, Delaware County, Ohio



Legend

-  District Boundary
-  Contributing Building
-  Non-Contributing Building





Ohio Wesleyan University
Fraternity Hill Historic
District, Delaware, Delaware
County, Ohio

NAD 27
Zone 17
1) East 323302
North 4462601
2) East 323623
North 4462583
3) East 323616
North 4462431
4) East 323295
North 4462450

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1959-60. Field checked 1960

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum.

10,000-foot grid based on Ohio coordinate system, north zone

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue

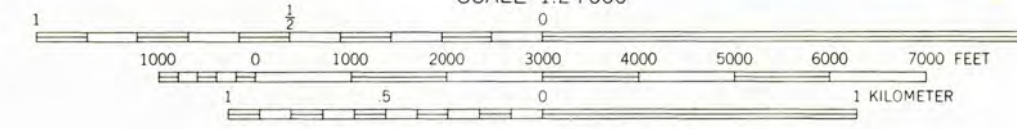
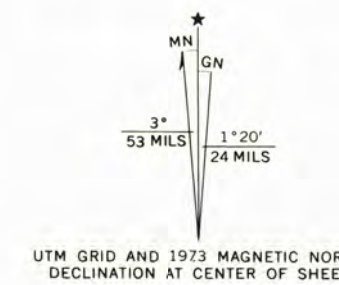
Entire area lies within the United States Military District

Land lines based on the Base Line of the United States
Military District

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern
are subject to controlled inundation to 947 feet

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
DA'UM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route

DELAWARE, OHIO

N4015-W8300/7.5

1960

PHOTOREVISED 1973

AMS 4364 1 SE-SERIES V852

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
State of Ohio agencies from aerial photographs taken
1973. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas













English Road
Houses

22

♿



Bigelow-Reed
House



ΦΔΘ
Phi Delta
Theta



ΦΔΘ
Phi Delta
Theta

Φ
Δ
Θ





ΦΚΨ



SHIT THE TRAP





ΑΣΦ
Alpha Sigma
Phi













ΣΦΕ

ΣΦΕ

ΣΦΕ
Sigma Phi
Epsilon





ΔΤΔ
Delta Tau
Delta

WILSON
UNIVERSITY





ΣΧ

Sigma Chi





30

SIGMA CHI

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Ohio Wesleyan University Fraternity Hill Historic District

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: OHIO, Delaware

Date Received: 7/15/2019 Date of Pending List: 8/9/2019 Date of 16th Day: 8/26/2019 Date of 45th Day: 8/29/2019 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100004312

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue
<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> TCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLG	

Accept Return Reject 8/29/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: AOS: Architecture, Social History; LOS: local; POS: 1954-1969

Recommendation/ Criteria: NR Criteria: A & C

Reviewer Lisa Deline Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239 Date 8/29/19

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



July 11, 2019

Julie Ernstein, Acting Chief, National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Ernstein:

Enclosed please find three new National Register nominations for Ohio. All appropriate notification procedures have been followed for the new nomination submissions.

NEW NOMINATIONS

Ohio Wesleyan University Fraternity Hill
Historic District
Mill & Dunn Historic District
Downtown Dayton Historic District


COUNTY

Delaware
Hamilton
Montgomery

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the information to the National Register of Historic Places nominations for Ohio Wesleyan University Fraternity Hill Historic District and Downtown Dayton Historic District.

If you have questions or comments about these documents, please contact the National Register staff in the Ohio Historic Preservation Office at (614) 298-2000.

Sincerely,

for 
Barbara Power

Lox A. Logan, Jr.
Executive Director and CEO
State Historic Preservation Officer
Ohio History Connection

Enclosures

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NPS TRANSMITTAL CHECK LIST

OHIO HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

800 E. 17th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43211
(614)-298-2000

The following materials are submitted on July 11, 2019
For nomination of the Ohio Wesleyan Uni. Fraternity Hall #D, Delaware County, OH to the National Register of Historic Places:

- Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
___ Paper PDF
- ___ Multiple Property Nomination Cover Document
___ Paper ___ PDF
- ___ Multiple Property Nomination form
___ Paper ___ PDF
- Photographs
___ Prints TIFFs
- CD with electronic images
- Original USGS map(s)
___ Paper Digital
- Sketch map(s)/Photograph view map(s)/Floor plan(s)
___ Paper PDF
- ___ Piece(s) of correspondence
___ Paper ___ PDF
- ___ Other _____

COMMENTS:

- ___ Please provide a substantive review of this nomination
- ___ This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- ___ The enclosed owner objection(s) do ___ do not ___
Constitute a majority of property owners
- ___ Other: _____