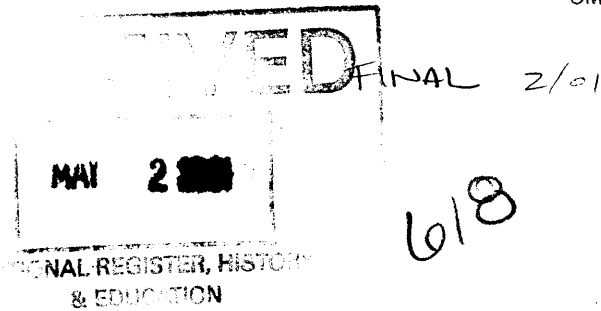


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Shadowwood  
other names/site number Wharf Estate 083-227-30032

2. Location

street & number 6451 East Wheatland Road N/A not for publication  
city or town Vincennes  vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county Knox code 083 zip code 47591

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

J. C. SA D-SHPO 4.30.01  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall 6/6/01  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
5	0	Total

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

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

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

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: Clubhouse

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

19th & 20th c. REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

STONE: Limestone

roof TERRA COTTA

other TERRA COTTA

**Narrative Description**

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

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1917

**Significant Dates**

1917

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Gaddis, J. W.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography**

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Byron R. Lewis Historical Library - Vincennes University

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 13

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 463760 4283140  
Zone Easting Northing

3 16 463510 4282960  
Zone Easting Northing

2 16 463760 4282960

4 16 463410 4283060

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Marc E. Sirotkin, MHP Candidate at the University of Georgia  
organization School of Environmental Design date 07-01-00  
street & number 175 International Drive, Apt. 833 telephone 706-548-2522  
city or town Athens state GA zip code 30605

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

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

**Property Owner**

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

name Sigma Pi Fraternity, International  
street & number P.O. Box 1897 (6451 East Wheatland Road) telephone 812-882-1897  
city or town Vincennes state IN zip code 47591

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

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

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*Shadowwood, Knox Co., IN*

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***Section 7 - Description***

Shadowwood (the estate of Colonel Eugene C. Wharf) occupies a thirteen-acre site about one and a half miles north of US-50, one mile northeast of Fritchton, and six miles east of Vincennes in Palmyra Township, Knox County, Indiana. Terrain is a gently rolling wooded lot containing four contributing structures: the house, the pump house, the carriage house, and a chicken house. The first three structures are located in linear form along the main driveway, while the chicken house is located approximately 25 yards behind the carriage house. One façade of the house faces the long driveway and Old Wheatland Road, while the other front of the house faces to the south towards US-50. The wide front yard gently slopes up to the house site from Old Wheatland Road and it is studded with mature hardwood trees. The site of the mansion contributes to its significance. Located on the grounds are two fishponds, several brick walkways, approximately one hundred fifty benches, and a small sign and gate marking the entrance to the property. In front of the house is a circular extension of the driveway, which has a flagpole with carved limestone base and landscaping within the center island. On the far southwestern corner of the property there is a small creek. These landscape elements constitute a contributing site. Shadowwood is located at the intersection of Old Wheatland Road (the oldest man-made highway in the state of Indiana, laid out at the direction of Governor William H. Harrison) and the Old Louisville Turnpike.

**Colonial Revival Estate House**

The brick and Indiana limestone trimmed Colonial Revival Estate House is the main structure on the property. Records and the original blue prints of the house date the home as being built in 1917. It is a two and one-half story brick house with a full basement, a side gabled roof, and front pedimented extension off to the south facade of the house. Both the front (north) and south elevations are treated as primary views. The roof of the house is tile made by the Ludowici Celadon Tile Company of Chicago. The inscription on the back of the tile has the aforementioned name, and the words "imperial tile," as well as an individual date on each tile (most are in September of 1916). The tiles are green with approximately two inches of terra cotta on one side. There are still close to two hundred extra tiles for the roof located on the southwestern corner of the property. Copper flashings, copings, conductors and downspouts add to the rich materials of the exterior.

The south facade of the house is seven-bayed with a large projecting sleeping porch in the center with two main rooms off to each side. The massive full-height two story Roman Doric portico projects forward from the main block, housing the second story sleeping porch with its multi-paned windows and low brick walls, and an open porch recessed underneath. The unfluted Doric columns are of glazed terra cotta, as are all the other columns on the exterior. The pediment has a wooden full entablature with plain frieze. The terra columns are buff colored, glazed on the outside to a rich red-brown color. A raking entablature encloses the brick tympanum and features a spider's-web-muntined lunette window.

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The main block is recessed behind the portico, appearing as two flanking wings on this elevation. A one story flat roofed porch lines the west flank, while a similarly proportioned sunroom is east. Each has one-story terra cotta Roman Doric columns; those of the sunroom are engaged into the room's brick walls. Openings are functionally placed within each wing. Under the portico is a primary entrance: a Federal Revival semi-elliptical arched entry with Bible door, oval muntined sidelights, and spider's web transom. The owners installed an aluminum storm door over the Bible door at some point. A leaded glass, elongated diamond paned horizontal casement window is placed high on the wall to the west of the entry. A squarish six-over-one sash is east of the entry. Like most windows or doorways, these have soldier course lintels and stone sills. A ribbon of three six-over-ones with narrow three-light transoms runs across the wall under the flanking porch. Over the porch is a symmetrical triple window group consisting of a central six-over-one flanked by narrow four-over-ones. The wall over the sunroom has only one six-over-one window. The same wooden entablature as the portico crowns the porch and sunroom, and also the main block.

The north elevation seems to recreate a five-bay I-house, a type once popular in southern Indiana. Three sided steps rise to the centered entry, sheltered under a one story, shallow, broken pedimented portico carried on terra cotta columns. The doorway is treated similar to the south main entrance. Six-over-one windows flank the entrance; each has a narrow three-light transom, stone sill, and a true gauged brick flat arch lintel. One story, flat-roofed rectangular bays cap each end of the north elevation. Each has three basement windows, continuous stone sills, and a triple window group like that of the south elevation, second story. A wooden full entablature caps each bay. The second story has six-over-ones in various groups: paired in the center, then singles flanking, and finally pairs on the ends over the bays. Three gabled dormers with round arched windows and raking cornices puncture the terra cotta tiled side gable roof, one over each window pair.

A one story, flat roofed room with engaged columns stands to the east of the main block, breaking the symmetry of the north elevation. Once an open porch, its columns are engaged into a blank wall, with a Neo-Colonial entry in the north wall. The color and texture of the brick is slightly different from the older brick of the main house. The fraternity undertook these alterations in c.1964. A wooden balustrade encloses this room's roofline; it has urn balusters and Greek key criss-cross fret work panels at the front and rear corners.

The east elevation is a gable end. The same enclosed porch as described on the north elevation runs half way across this elevation. A small at-grade enclosed entrance stands beside the enclosed porch. The enclosed porch has an entrance on this side, sheltered under a shallow portico with terra cotta columns. The second floor has a balanced design with six-over-ones flanking a porch balcony doorway. A round arched hood resting on two engaged Roman Doric columns tops the rectangular door. The attic level gable end has a pair of small six-over-ones. The full entablature with returns rakes along the roofline.

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The west elevation has a less complex and more public face. The basement level has four small windows. The large, slightly projecting chimney divides this side into two asymmetrical halves. The chimney gracefully crow-steps back to a narrower flue at the second story, the transition marked by a concave stone cap. First and second stories have three openings each. Multi-light casements with gauged brick flat arch lintels, raised panel stone keystones, and stone sills flank the chimney. A single transomed six-over-one with matching lintel is south of this. The second floor has three six-over-ones aligning with those of the first floor. The attic level gable end has two small six-over-ones. The roofline has the same raking entablature and returns as the other gable end.

The eighteen-room interior of Shadowwood has a formal Colonial Revival plan. While the first floor bears some resemblance to the I-houses that likely inspired it, the plan is at once more spacious and well-lit. Structurally, most interior walls are reinforced concrete and brick, from eighteen to twenty-four inches thick in some areas. While the fraternity has made some accommodations to the office function of the building, the architecture of the house is largely unaltered.

The formal entrance is from the north side of the house. Entering into a small foyer with coat closet, visitors can then move into the wide center hall. Simple high baseboards with cyma mold cap line the room; moldings here are painted, back-banded shouldered surrounds. Most first floor doors are paneled and made of walnut wood. Whether painted or not, most of first floor door and window surrounds are similar in style. Floors are commercial tile, likely added c.1970. The ceiling has transverse cased beams of walnut. The back end of the hall (south) has a half run of stairs against the south wall, perpendicular to the hall rather than parallel to the main axis of the hall. The stair has an elegant walnut banister, which spirals around at the end to meet the newel. Railings are painted.

The former main living room, now utilized for conferencing, is west of the hall. The opening into this and the other flanking room, the dining room, have pocket multi-paned doors of walnut. The living room has been carpeted. All moldings in this room are stained walnut, including the cased transverse ceiling beams. The fireplace wall is the focal point of the room. A Neo-Federal mantle with fluted pilasters flanked by bookcases fills the west wall. The bookcases were open originally, now, modern glass sliding doors protect its' contents. Multi light casement windows stand above each bookcase, flanking the projecting chimneybreast. A rectangular bay with triple windows affords a place to enjoy books; a built-in wooden bench seat fills this area. A steam heat radiator and venting grill are under the seat.

A music room can be reached only from the former living room. Multi-light pocket doors can divide this room from the living room. This private room has a south-facing triple window group. Moldings and details are much the same as the living room. However, the ceiling lacks the cased beam work. Instead, an elaborate plaster frieze of dentil mold, egg-and-dart, and water leaf crowns the room. This room now displays memorabilia of various Sigma Pi chapters and alumni.

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Crossing back through the living room and hall, visitors reach the former dining room. In plan, it perfectly balances the living room, however, it differs in finishes. The bay, for example, is simply an open space in this room. An elaborate built-in sideboard is recessed into the center of the south wall. Transomed French doors centered on the east wall lead into the former porch. This porch room was enclosed in about 1964 when the fraternity built brick walls between the terra cotta columns. There are therefore no historic finishes of any kind, as shown by its dark paneled walls.

A former pantry area connects the dining room to the former kitchen. Some original storage white-painted wood cupboards remain in the pantry. The fraternity converted the pantry into a galley-style kitchenette at some point. The former kitchen has no traces of ever having been a kitchen; it is now an office space. However, original windows and doors remain in original locations. A short, narrow hall connects the kitchen back into the south end of the hall. An original one-half bath is off of this hall. It has an original spindle leg-pedestal sink, hex tile floor, glazed tile high wainscot, snowflake frosted glass stained wood door, and an unusual soap holder fixture. Stairs down to the basement also open off of this hall, as does a narrow enclosed stair to the upstairs.

The second floor plan totally departs from the center hall configuration downstairs. Instead, a long hall runs lengthwise down the center of the house, with an enlarged landing where the main stairs runs alongside the hall. Moldings in general are simpler, with doors and windows usually lacking the shouldered effect, instead having simple back banding and painted finish. Oak floors are intact beneath the carpeting. Most rooms on this floor have a simple, thin wood cornice.

Four bedrooms align across the north front of the house. The west bedroom was the master suite. This bedroom has a painted wood fireplace with tile hearth, and opens into a south facing extra room. The west bedroom also has access to a large closet along the east wall, however, the original use of this closet area is unclear and it may have been altered. Finishes in the four bedrooms are consistent; painted back banded moldings, paneled wood doors, simple plaster walls and ceilings with few embellishments. The back or southeast bedroom, across the end of the hall, has a large closet but is otherwise very similar to the others. Each bedroom is a private office now.

The landing for the main stair is a square common area off the center-south side of the hall. A bathroom is off of this hall. The main public space of the second floor opens off of the landing: a long sleeping porch, running along the south central side of the house. It has fine views of the estate's holdings to the south. An operable diamond-paned leaded glass horizontal double-hung window allows air from the sleeping porch into the hall / landing as well views back and forth. The sleeping porch has large windows with natural stained walnut surrounds. Each has the shouldered design used downstairs. The sunroom is an office pool area now.

From the east end of the upstairs hall, visitors can go upstairs to the attic. Originally, the attic was a



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single large room, with the stairs arriving just off center. Col. Wharf and his family used this space for formal dances or parties. Finishes are very simple. A wall divides a portion of the attic into a separate room. A door off of the second floor landing opens to an enclosed stair, which one can follow down, to the first floor back hall, and down again to the basement. The basement stair has a solid, car sided railing wall. Some of the frosted glass paneled doors, walls, and other elements in the basement are original to the house.

Pump House

Built at the same time as the house, the brick pump house has a pyramidal roof covered with the same tile as the house. There are three sets of windows on the pump house, all being eight paned.

Carriage House

The brick carriage house was also built at the time of the main house. The structure has a hipped roof covered with the same type of tile as the pump house and main house, and has a brick foundation. There are three exterior entrances with three paneled rectangular transoms above each. The two entrances on the north facade of the building have gauged brick jack arches above the transoms with large limestone keystones. The two original wooden garage doors had eight wooden panels with twelve glass panels above them.

Chicken House

The chicken house was built in c.1945, is sided with wood clapboards and rests on a concrete foundation. The building has a sawtooth roofline, with different pitches of shed roof creating a clerestory level of four horizontal windows. The fraternity has converted this structure into a tool and tractor shed, but it still maintains integrity.

***Section 8 - Statement of Significance***

Shadowwood meets National Register Criterion C because it is a locally exceptional, well-detailed and large-scale example of Colonial Revival design. Prominent local architect J.W. Gaddis designed the house for Col. Eugene Wharf in 1917. The spacious estate grounds compliment the scale and grandeur of the home, an unexpected setting for a style and age of house more commonly found in early suburban neighborhoods in Evansville, Indianapolis, or Fort Wayne.

Architecture

America's interest in classicism and Colonial forms was reborn at the turn of the century. The

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Columbian Exposition of 1893 provided America's leading classicists a chance to showcase how U.S. cities could be rebuilt. McKim, Mead and White and other leading traditionalists, working with Daniel Burnham, created a new, grand, formal promenade lined with crisply rendered Beaux-Arts style buildings. The planners of the Chicago event also asked each of the thirteen original colonies to build pavilions in a native Colonial style for the exposition. The resulting buildings took the form of various Colonial homes. While designers of Shingle Style homes of the east coast had already begun to turn to Early American sources for inspiration, these 1893 pavilions put the official stamp of approval on the revival of colonial forms. The style suited the outlook of many Americans at the time. The U.S. had arrived as a world power in the 1890s; victory of the Spanish-American War solidified America's arrival into the arena of world affairs.

As the popularity of the Arts and Crafts movement waned in the 'teens, architects, contractors and potential home owners turned to the revival styles once again. In Indiana, Colonial Revival and Tudor Revival styles were the most popular of these. The defining characteristics of good examples of Colonial Revival homes are not very different from their not-so-distant ancestors. They typically mimic the blocky, vernacular massing of the double-piles and I-houses of the late 1700s / early 1800s. Symmetry was often an organizing principal of Colonial builders; so it was in the early 1900s. Georgian or Federal details are concentrated around doorways or windows.

Twentieth century builders were quick to incorporate the planning and structural innovations of their own time, however. Brick veneering, and perhaps the use of steel for lintels, allowed double or triple window groups. Heating innovations allowed homes to have larger rooms, with open plans inspired by the Arts and Crafts period. Porches gave respite from summer heat.

Shadowwood embodies all the characteristics of a high style Colonial Revival home. The house is distinguished from other local examples by its scale and richness of detail. Architect J.W. Gaddis used textured face brick, carved limestone, wooden moldings, glazed roof tiles, and most unusual of all, glazed terra cotta for the exterior columns.

Knox County is rich in authentic early 1800s vernacular architecture. Indeed, a fine example of an early I-house with Federal details, Rose Hill (NR, 3-3-95), stands virtually across the street from Shadowwood. The William Henry Harrison Home in Vincennes, Grouseland, dates from 1804 and is one of Indiana's best examples of the Federal style. Vincennes has a number of antebellum homes, Palmyra Township where Shadowwood stands has eight good examples of pre Civil War homes. The preponderance of earlier architecture reflects the importance of Vincennes in the settlement of Indiana. Founded as a French fort in the late eighteenth century, Vincennes became the Territorial Capital of the Northwest Territory under William Henry Harrison. Vincennes was well suited to prosper in early Indiana, with its advantages of river trade, political activity, and an established economy. As railroads, a new state capital, and rich newer farmlands in central and northern Indiana eroded these advantages,

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Vincennes became a regional town. Its twentieth century role was as a county seat, secondary rail center, and manufacturing town.

Where actual early 19<sup>th</sup> century vernacular homes are plentiful, good examples of Colonial Revival architecture are relatively uncommon in the Vincennes area. There are none in Palmyra Township, but Vincennes itself has three high style examples that stand out from the handful of more typical ones in town. The Mary O'Donnell House, 313 Church, is a 1907 example with massive central portico and side-facing gambrel roof. The Frank Oliphant House, 422 N. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1905, is an elaborate two story, hip roofed brick house with a two level portico. The Peck-Bayard place, 505 N. 6<sup>th</sup>, c.1910, has the two level portico masking an older Italianate cubical house. Interestingly, these three have reasonably close design parallels to several of the Columbian Exposition pavilions. Along with these three, Shadowwood can be counted as among the best examples of Colonial Revival design in Knox County.

The architect, J.W. Gaddis (1856-1931), designed many structures in Indiana and Illinois. Gaddis graduated from the University of Illinois and practiced in Vincennes. He was responsible for such other projects as the Knox County Sheriff's Residence and Jail (a 1903 Romanesque Revival), the J.M. Clark House (an 1892 Queen Anne home), and the St. John Evangelical United Brethren Church (an 1886/1935 Gothic Revival church) all located within Vincennes. Additionally, he designed several courthouses in Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri including the Huntington County Courthouse, 1906, Putnam County Courthouse, 1905, Clay County Courthouse, 1914, all in Indiana; Illinois courthouses in Crawford, Christian, and Wayne Counties; and the Perry County Courthouse, 1904, in Missouri. Several of his out-of-state commissions are more Romanesque Revival in style. For example, the Christian County Courthouse, 1902, in Taylorville, Illinois, has a massive central tower and heavy rusticated stonework. The Perry County Courthouse in Missouri is very similar in massing. Gaddis' work after the turn of the century shows a marked debt to classicism, although, the overall form of the courthouses did not change appreciably, only the style. The Wharf House reflects, on a residential scale, Gaddis' favorite architectural composition from this time period: a central tetrastyle portico projecting from a main rectangular block. He continued to use this motif on public buildings, including a similar composition for the Bell County Courthouse of 1919 in far southeastern Kentucky.

Owners

The original thirteen-acre lot, which Shadowwood now stands upon, was first part of 400 acres owned by Jean Baptiste St. Aubin, a Frenchman who received the plot of land from the United States government. These tracts of land were known as French donation lands and were given to French families for loyal support shown to the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. Jean Baptiste St. Aubin sold the 400 acres of land in 1807 to Martin Rose (owner of Rose Hill, an 1827 Federal style I-House listed on the National Register of Historic Places, located one-quarter of a mile from Shadowwood on the Old Louisville Turnpike). The Old Louisville Turnpike ran perpendicular to the Old

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Wheatland Turnpike. In the nineteenth century, the Old Wheatland Turnpike, which ran directly in front of the property that would eventually become Shadowwood, was a very heavily traveled stagecoach route running from Vincennes to Louisville, Kentucky via Washington, Indiana.

The Rose family was one of the earliest settlers in the area (they established a farm on the property that would eventually include six outbuildings). In 1834, the property was sold to Henry Wise, the husband of Malinda Rose, and the youngest child of Martin Rose. The Wise family operated a saddlery on the property and sold these saddles to the U.S. Army. After Henry's death in 1888, Robert Patterson, who had married Nancy Wise (one of Henry and Malinda's six children), acquired the property. Family tradition states the Patterson family is related to Betsy Patterson Bonaparte. She was the wife of Jerome Bonaparte (Napoleon's brother and King of Westphalia).

Robert's younger son, George, later took possession of the land and sold the thirteen acres that Shadowwood now sits upon to Colonel Eugene C. Wharf on June 29, 1916. Colonel Wharf (B. October 31, 1878 in Olney, Illinois; D. April 16, 1956 in Vincennes, Indiana) was a veteran of the Spanish American War. He had chosen the lot on the outskirts of Vincennes for its scenic beauty and heavily timbered acres. He oversaw all details of the construction of the building and spared no expense. Over the years, Wharf added the chicken house, pools and a green house to the property. The green house was made of all glass panes. Later, the greenhouse was removed and given to a local nursery, Purcell Gardens in Vincennes.

Wharf was very active in the Vincennes Rotary Club and the Salvation Army in which he was vice president. At the age of 77, Wharf passed away without leaving a will. His second wife, Stella, was given possession of the property. On May 14, 1957, Stella donated Shadowwood (including the thirteen-acre estate and also one hundred fifty-five acres of farmland located one mile east of Shadowwood) to Vincennes University to honor her late husband's life long dream of utilizing the estate for educational purposes after his death. Vincennes University did not have a use for the thirteen-acre property. At first, it was suggested Shadowwood should be an agricultural extension center for the Purdue University School of Agriculture. Due to a lack of interest, Vincennes University came up with a new idea. For a short time, the house was used as a women's dormitory for the University, and later was rented to a local doctor's family as his primary residence.

Sigma Pi and the Wharf Estate

In 1961, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Vincennes University, the Honorable Curtis Shake proposed the idea of utilizing the property as the national headquarters for Sigma Pi Fraternity, a men's social fraternity that had been founded on the campus of Vincennes University on February 26, 1897. Shake was a presiding judge at the Nuremberg War Trials. Additionally, George M. Patterson, who sold the land to Colonel Wharf, was one of the founding members of Tau Phi Delta (the fraternity that later

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became Sigma Pi Fraternity in 1907). Shake was able to convince the other members of the Board of Trustees, and on November 20, 1961, the thirteen-acre Shadowwood estate became the new headquarters of Sigma Pi Fraternity. The estate was dedicated on August 30, 1962 in conjunction with the 26<sup>th</sup> National Convocation of Sigma Pi Fraternity held in French Lick.

On July 1, 1963, the Executive Office of Sigma Pi Fraternity was officially transferred from Elizabeth, New Jersey to Shadowwood. For the last thirty-seven years, Sigma Pi Fraternity of the United States (now Sigma Pi Fraternity, International as of August 1984) has owned the property. Today, the estate is still used as the International Headquarters for Sigma Pi Fraternity. Sigma Pi Fraternity has over 75,000 alumni and has had over 200 chapters and colonies at colleges and universities throughout North America. Shadowwood has become a symbol for the fraternity and its roots that began in Vincennes back in 1897. Shadowwood houses the fraternity's museum full of memorabilia commemorating the Wharf family, the fraternity's history, individual members, and chapters (both active and dormant). A portion of the ballroom in the attic story of the house currently is used as a ritual room for fraternity members only, making this room the most sacred room of the house for the fraternity's members. The old carriage house has been converted into a residence for up to five members working at the International Headquarters.

Additionally, the International Headquarters building and grounds have been used to house many meetings of the Grand Council (the governing board of directors of the fraternity) as well as conferences for active members and alumni for the last thirty-seven years. Since 1991, Shadowwood and Vincennes University have been the co-hosts to Sigma Pi Fraternity Leadership School (now Sigma Pi University). Shadowwood has worked very well as the International Headquarters of the fraternity. Therefore, the Shadowwood-Wharf Estate is quite significant in terms of social history in regard to Sigma Pi Fraternity.

The house still serves as a landmark for the greater Vincennes area.

***Section 9 – Bibliography***

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Section 10 – Geographical Data – Verbal Boundary Description

Part of Donation Number Fifty-Two (52), township Three (3) North, Range Nine (9) west, bounded by and described as beginning at a stone on the southwest line of said Donation No. 52, 46.84 chains from the west corner thereof; thence north 51 ¼ degrees east 19.78 chains to a stone in the road; thence south 74 degrees 00 minutes west 9.44 chains to a stake in the road on the southwest line of said Donation; thence south 38 ¾ degrees 10.20 chains to the place of beginning, containing 13 acres.

Boundary Justification

This is the historic property boundary, including the estate house, outbuildings, and the surrounding wooded lot, which have been historically part of the thirteen acre Shadowwood-Wharf Estate for over eighty-four years. To the south of the property there is a distinct line between the residential estate and farmland. To the north of the property is Old Wheatland Road. To the west of the property is another site with a house and outbuildings. To the east is more farmland.

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Photographic Information

Photos 1-12:

- 1: Shadowwood / Colonel Eugene Wharf House
- 2: Knox County, IN
- 3: Marc Sirotkin
- 4: July 1, 2000
- 5: Indiana DNR / Div. of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

1. Looking north, south façade with portico 2. Looking northeast, south and west elevations.  
3. Looking north, detail of portico. 4. Looking southeast, north and west elevations. 5. Looking south,  
north elevation, circular drive. 6. Looking west, east elevation, enclosed porch. 7. Looking east, detail  
of casement window and gauged brick arch on west elevation. 8. Interior, stair hall, looking  
south/southwest 9. Interior, cornice detail, music room 10. Pump House, looking southeast. 11.  
Carriage House, looking south. 12. Chicken House, looking northwest.

Photos 13 – 19 Taken by Paul Diebold, February, 2001, negs with DNR / DHPA

13. Interior, stair hall, looking southwest 14. Interior, living room, triple window bay, built-in seat, built-  
in bookcase to left, looking northwest 15. Interior, living room, mantelpiece, looking west 16. Interior,  
former dining room, pocket French doors partially open, looking northwest 17. Interior, former dining  
room, built-in cupboard, looking southeast 18. Interior, second floor, stair rail, hall, looking  
west/southwest 19. Interior, former master bedroom, looking north / northwest

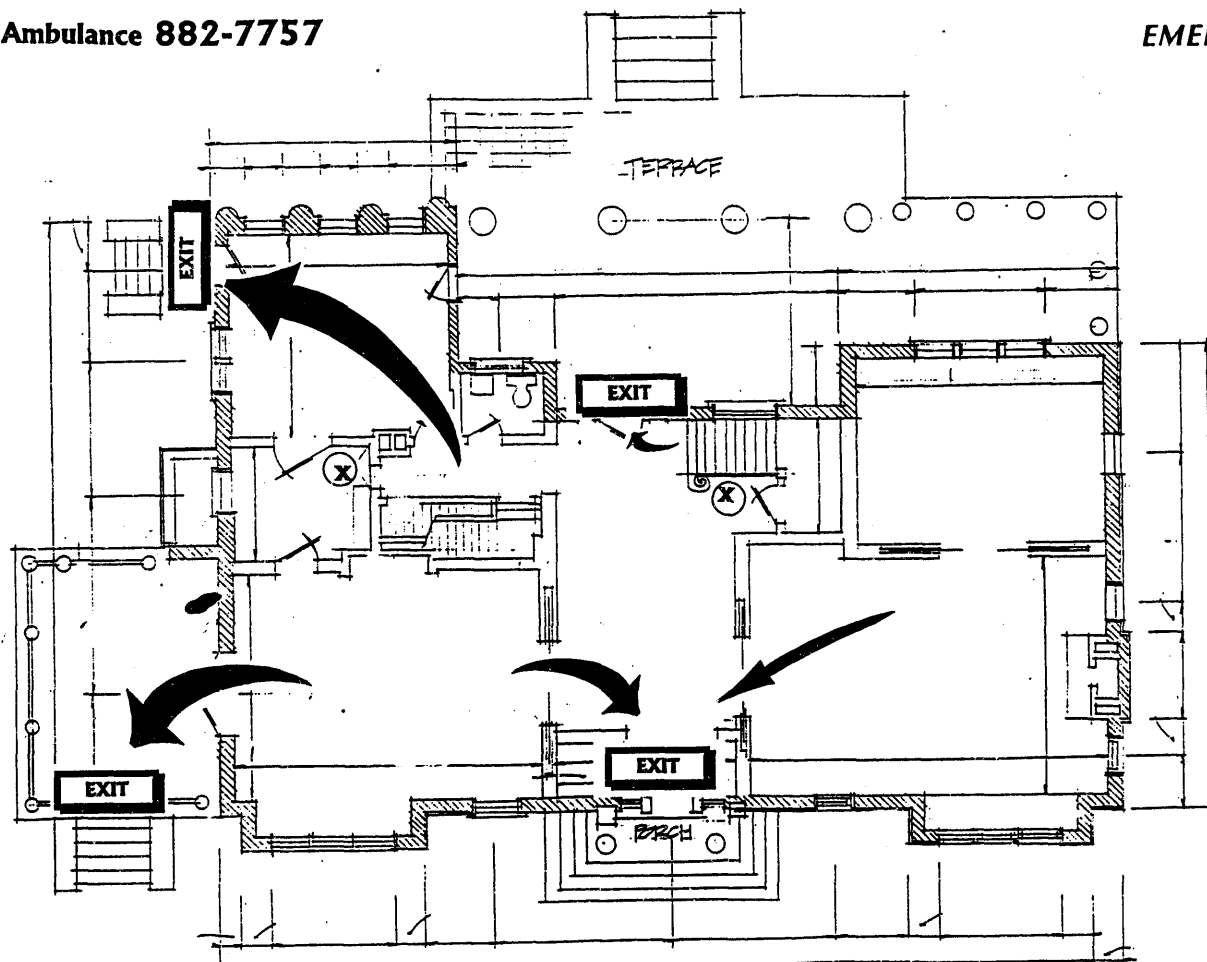
Fire 882-5665

Sheriff 882-7660

Ambulance 882-7757




SIGMA PI FRATERNITY  
INTERNATIONAL

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN



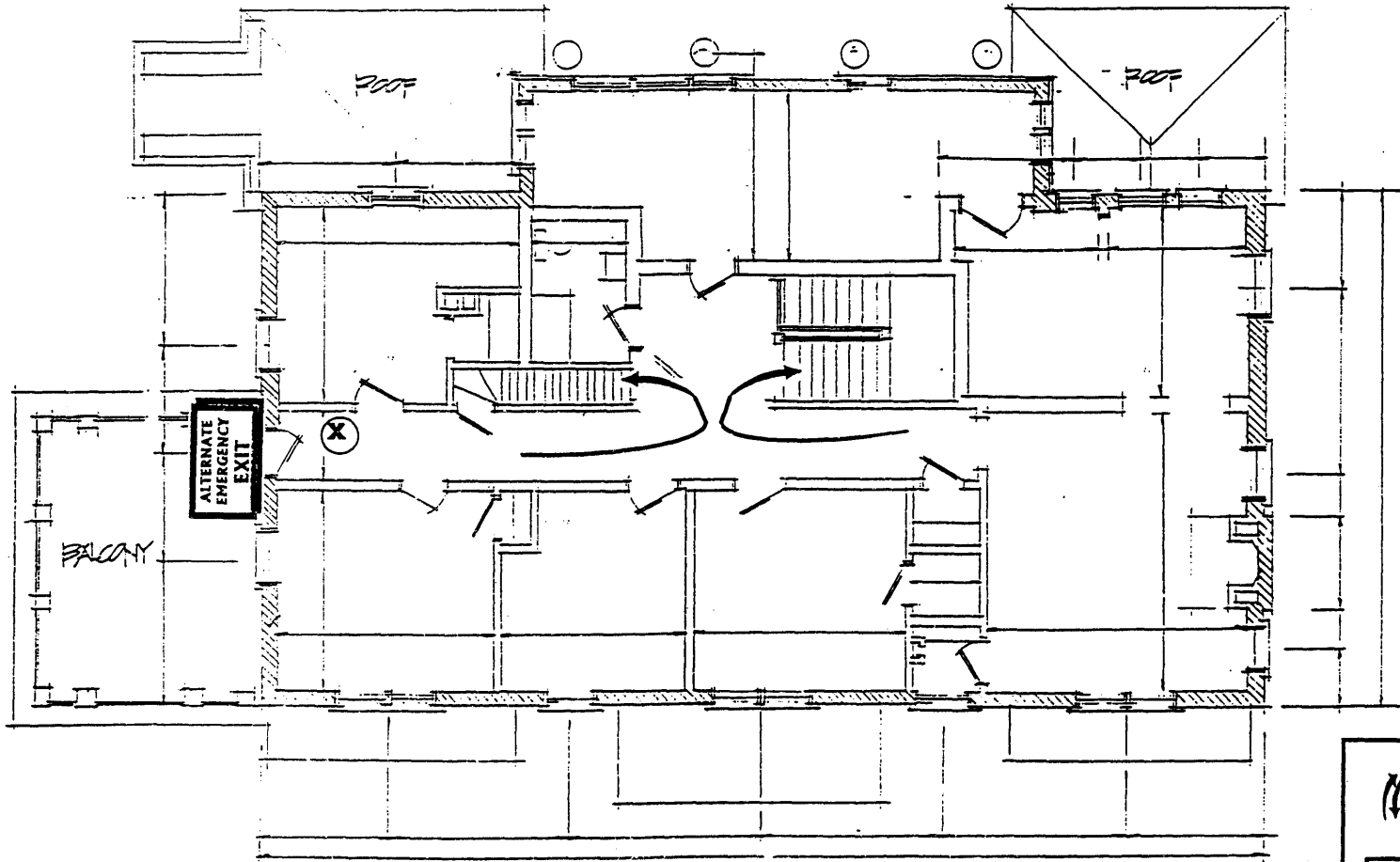
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

KEY

	Evacuation Route
	Exit
	Fire Extinguisher





INTERNATIONAL  
EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

KEY

-  = Evacuation Route
-  = Exit

