

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 17 1975

DATE ENTERED

SEP 25 1975

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC East College of DePauw University

AND/OR COMMON

East College of Indiana Asbury University

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

300 Simpson Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Greencastle

__ VICINITY OF

7th

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Indiana

CODE

18

COUNTY

Putnam

CODE

133

CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

__DISTRICT

 BUILDING(S)

__STRUCTURE

__SITE

__OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

__PUBLIC

 PRIVATE

__BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

__IN PROCESS

__BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS OCCUPIED

__UNOCCUPIED

__WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE YES: RESTRICTED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__NO

PRESENT USE

__AGRICULTURE

__COMMERCIAL

 EDUCATIONAL

__ENTERTAINMENT

__GOVERNMENT

__INDUSTRIAL

__MILITARY

__MUSEUM

__PARK

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__RELIGIOUS

__SCIENTIFIC

__TRANSPORTATION

__OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Board of Trustees DePauw University

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Greencastle

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Recorder of Putnam County
Deed & Record Book F. Page 181

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Greencastle

STATE

Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Indiana Historic Sites Survey

DATE

December 1972

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Department of Natural Resources
State Office Bldg.

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

STATE

Indianapolis

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present exterior physical appearance of East College has not been changed from the original except for the addition of fire escapes on the south, east and west sides and for the planting and growth of carefully distributed trees.

The building is a combination of features of several architectural styles and is the only building situated on a spacious, four-acre lot of the DePauw University Campus. The plans for East College offered by J.A. Vrydagh of Terre Haute, Indiana, were accepted by the trustees of Indiana Asbury University in 1868. Contracts for the excavation of the basement and the laying of the foundation were assigned in 1869 and 1870, respectively. The cornerstone was laid in 1870. Although the building was dedicated in 1877, it was not completed until 1882 when Meharry Hall and the basement (first floor) were finished. The construction delays had been caused by financial difficulties.

East College is red brick except for the first (basement) story, the horizontal moldings, the chimneys, the door and window moldings and entrance steps and porches, all of which are stone. The north entrance porch is an artistic blend of Gothic arch and column design. The modified Corinthian column capitals display skillfully planned letters "A" in the carving. These letters are assumed to denote "Asbury".

There are four impressive entrance doors, one on each side of the building. Each door is ornamented with a Gothic arch design. The first and second story windows are rectangular except for the second story bay which has three Gothic-arched windows. The top of the bay forms a balcony for the windows above. Two-story-height windows, both Gothic and rectangular, unite the third and fourth stories on all sides of the building. Accenting the window pattern on each face of East College are four gables surmounted by false chimneys. The east and west gables have the letter "A" as part of the molding.

The slate-shingled Mansard roof has three flat copper decks, the largest of which is over Meharry Hall. These decks are enclosed with low metal-over-wood sheathing walls having ornamental iron balustrades. Chimneys, although no longer used, continue to be an interesting feature of the overall appearance. Also visible at the roof and blending with the general design are circular ventilators.

East College has three towers. The square bell tower has a pyramidal upper section that displays a face of the clock on each of its four scalloped-shingled sides. The clock activates the bell to ring hourly, but the bell must be rung by hand to announce class sessions. The clock and bell had been installed by 1881. The observatory tower is a domed structure having eight vertical sides resembling windows and doors. There is a globe at the extreme top and the entire tower has been painted gray. This tower was not used for the purpose for which it had been built because smoke from surrounding chimneys made the location a poor one for an observatory. The smaller third tower above the east entrance door is square with a pyramidal roof having gabled dormers.

The overall appearance of East College is one of quiet dignity, strength, propriety and lack of confusion and clutter. It is a living pioneer from an early education era. The exterior building materials show the superficial effects of time and weather, but, structurally, the building is still well-preserved and functional, and it is still being used for the purpose for which it was built.

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The interior physical appearance of East College has been altered to meet present functional and educational needs, but the original structure remains intact. The building is now in the planning stages for restoration, renovation, preservation and full utilization. Although educational requirements have so changed that the interior must be modified to meet these requirements, the modification can be achieved without destroying architectural detail.

Classrooms and offices were originally planned for each floor. Some of these rooms were quite large with ceilings ranging in height from ten feet in the basement (first floor), sixteen feet on the second floor and twelve feet on the third and fourth floors. The floors were either tiled or carpeted; the walls were papered in carefully chosen colors and patterns. Some of the ceilings were frescoed with scenes depicting the four seasons. Wooden shutters hung inside the windows, and some of these shutters are still hanging. Lighting was provided by lamps and ornate chandeliers.

One of the basement rooms was allocated as a furnace room because steam heat was planned from the beginning for East College. The age of the various radiators throughout the building has not been determined.

The second floor corridor has high Gothic-arched windows leading into the classrooms; these windows may have been planned originally for ventilation. The original floors and stairs are still in use. The only fireplace in the building is marble and is located on the third floor in a classroom that was once a part of the college president's quarters. The fireplace is not used.

Meharry Hall with the stage, rows of seating, balcony and upper auditorium dominates the third and fourth floors. The stage has been enlarged to accommodate the activities of an increasing enrollment. The original balcony extended completely across the north side of the Hall, but the organ installation in 1914 necessitated removing the center section and limiting the balcony to two sections, one on the east and one on the west. Although the organ console has been removed, the pipes still remain.

The woods used in the construction include oak, sycamore, ash, pine and poplar. Their richness is visible in the lustrous finish of ornate door and window framing, bannisters and newel posts, but the sturdy floors and steps are worn with many, many footsteps.

Much of East College was completed as donations arrived. In gratitude for the donations, the trustees placed the names of the donors upon doors and in corridors. Many of the names are still present.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1869-1882

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building known as "East College" was the second college building of Indiana Asbury University, the first Methodist College to be established in Indiana. Granted its charter in 1837, Asbury became a leading educational institution. The charter stated that the college was to be "for the benefit of the youth of every class of citizens, and of every denomination, who shall be freely admitted to equal advantages and privileges of education".

Less than two years after the dedication in 1877 of the still unfinished but stately new building, the original college building, West College, was almost completely destroyed by fire. The disaster left East College as the heir to forty-two years of scholastic achievement.

Construction of the East College building progressed only as funds became available with the result that the entire project lasted for thirteen years (1869-1882). The building was carefully planned, skillfully designed and well constructed so that now, one hundred years later, it is still a functional educational structure. Only minimum alterations have been necessary, and these, all interior, have not changed the building structurally. A splendid example of nineteenth century architecture, it displays an interesting coordination of various architectural styles with attention to detail in materials, doors, windows, moldings, columns, towers and roof design. Each surface of the exterior has been treated with importance as has every detail of the interior. The architectural design is so effective that the building has the ability to transport the observer back to the time of both the gentle manners and the rugged strength of a young nation, eager to learn and grow.

The name of Indiana Asbury University was changed to DePauw University in 1884 in honor of a noted benefactor, Washington Charles DePauw.

Following the destruction of West College, the new East College stood for a few months as the only college building on the somewhat penurious Asbury campus; now it stands as the oldest building on the prospering DePauw campus.

East College is a living remembrance of many prominent persons who are linked with Asbury/DePauw. The list is so extensive that only a few can be mentioned.

Asbury's first president, Matthew Simpson, was the first of six Asbury/DePauw presidents to become bishops of the Methodist Church. An advisory to President Lincoln upon such matters as the proclation freeing the slaves, he later delivered the oration at the funeral of the assassinated President. The other Asbury president to become a bishop was Thomas Bowman, Chaplain of the U.S. Senate from 1864 to 1865.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. "DePauw Through the Years" Vol. 1 & Vol 2 / George B. Manhart
2. "Indiana Asbury University-DePauw University" / Irving F. Brown
3. "Joint Board of Trustees and Visitors Minutes" 1837-1879
4. Photograph File - DePauw University Archives

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 4

UTM REFERENCES

A	16	51181710	4138716110	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mr. Robert D. Gaston, Director Physical Plant

ORGANIZATION

DePauw University

DATE

6/30/75

STREET & NUMBER

5 Larrabee Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Greencastle

STATE

Indiana

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

S.H.P.O.

DATE

7/11-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

9/25/75

ATTEST: Ronald N. Brumberg
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/24/75

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Serving as early members of the Asbury Board of Trustees were Judge A. C. Downey, state supreme court; Henry S. Lane, governor and U.S. Senator; Governor Joseph A. Wright and Clem Studebaker of the famous South Bend carriage works.

A popular teacher, voluminous writer and outstanding lecturer of Asbury was the historian, John Clark Ridpath. He assumed many responsibilities in the East College Building Project and was interested in the progress of women students, who were first admitted to the University in 1867.

Foreign students were first recorded in 1874 with the attendance of three students from Brazil. Among the first Japanese students to be admitted to Asbury in 1877 were Sutemi Chinda and Aimaro Sato. Supporting themselves, they advanced from their attic quarters in West College to the Imperial Court in Tokyo.

Several Asbury alumni became state governors. Among them were Albert G. Porter (graduate of 1843), Indiana (later Minister to Italy); Newton Booth (1846), California; Thomas W. Bennett (1855), Idaho; Henry A. Buchtel (1872), Colorado and Samuel H. Elrod (1882), South Dakota.

James Harlan (1845) became a U.S. Senator from Iowa, advisor to President Lincoln, Secretary of the Interior at the end of the Lincoln administration and father-in-law of Robert Todd Lincoln upon the marriage of his daughter to the President's son. Roy O. West (1890) also served as Secretary of the Interior at the end of the Coolidge administration.

The brilliant orator, Senator Albert J. Beveridge graduated in 1885, and Charles A. Beard (1898) was one of the few men honored by being elected to the presidency of both the American Historical Association and the American Political Science Association.

Other alumni include Percy S. Julian (1920) head of Julian Laboratories, Inc., and renowned for his chemical research; David E. Lilienthal (1920) who has held probably the most important governmental positions ever held by an Asbury/DePauw alumnus; Howard C. Peterson (1930), Joseph W. Barr (1939) and John McNaughton (1942) all of whom have been named to important administrative positions in Washington. Large number of DePauw graduates, including women, have served in the legislatures of Indiana and other states.

Since 1840, famous persons had been summoned to their college classes by the clock and bell of old West College; since 1881 they have been summoned by the successor to the original, the clock and bell of East College.