

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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

John W. Boehne House

and/or common

Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity House

2. Location

street & number 1119 Lincoln Avenue

N/A not for publication

city, town

Evansville

N/A vicinity of

congressional district

state

Indiana

code

18

county

Vanderburgh

code

163

3. Classification

Category

district
 building(s)
 structure
 site
 object

Ownership

public
 private
 both

Public Acquisition

in process
 being considered
N/A

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:

4. Owner of Property

name

Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity

street & number

1119 Lincoln Avenue

city, town

Evansville

N/A vicinity of

state

Indiana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Vanderburgh County Recorder's Office

street & number

Civic Center Complex

city, town

Evansville

state

Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Evansville Cultural Resources

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

Inventory

date 1977-1981

federal

state

county

local

depository for survey records

Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology

city, town

Indianapolis

state

Indiana

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date N/A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Owned and occupied since 1965 by Tau Kappa Epsilon as a college fraternity chapter house, the former John W. Boehne residence is situated on riverine plain land facing north onto Lincoln Avenue, a major east-west artery. Only a mile or so from the Evansville downtown business district, the environment surrounding the old Boehne house had been residential until about twenty years ago when small office blocks and specialty shops (generally located in old residences) began intruding into the area. The Boehne house, though, is relatively isolated from this emerging urbanization due to its deep set back on an acre and a half tract of land. When it was under construction in 1912-13, this stretch of Lincoln Avenue then immediately east of the city's corporate limit was still mainly pastoral, but developers, recognizing its potential, were promoting it as the "most desirable and exclusive residential section" in Evansville, offering for sale large lots on which "suburban residences of the better class" could be erected. A number of houses of the "better class" were built in the locality, but none approached the magnitude of Congressman Boehne's mansion.

Designed by the local architectural firm of Clifford Shopbell and Company, the Boehne building is an imposing, stone-encased rendition of the Colonial Revival style which boasts a colossal pedimented portico. Standing two stories in height with an additional attic story, the massing of the house is basically square (46 feet by 46 feet) in ground plan, broken only by a narrow, two story pedimented projection at the rear on the east side. The balanced five-bay facade contains windows with multi-paned upper sashes and a generously proportioned central entrance with sidelights and transom bars. A cantilevered hood shelters the doorway and serves as a balcony for the floor above. A series of four multi-paned doors, in aggregate, repeat the breadth of the entrance below and open onto a deck bounded by a wrought-iron rail. Bedford limestone veneer blocks, set in a decorative pattern of alternating narrow and wide bands, sheath the brick bearing walls of the front and side elevations, while a measure of economy is exhibited at the rear where stucco over brick was employed. A pitched roof of Brookfield green pantiles forms end gables in which Palladio window units are featured.

The centerpiece for this basic four-square building is the monumental portico spanning thirty-two feet of the facade. Handsomely managed and proportioned, it is composed of four fluted, stone composite columns based upon a tiled terrace and supporting a pediment pierced by a lunette with keystone. Raking and horizontal cornices are classically treated with mutules and moldings. Along with an entablature, this same molding embellishment also serves to enrich the roof eaves of the main massing. The roof of the pediment is covered with green pantiles.

To the rear of the site on the north side is the original three-bay garage. Like the main house, walls are clad with limestone veneer, and the roof is covered with green pantiles.

The enfilade-plan of the interior spaces remains relatively intact. Finishes of stained oak woodwork and interior appointments--built-in bookcases with leaded glass doors, the coffered dining room ceiling, the wide main stairway, the crystal living room chandelier and various leaded glass windows and partitions--have all been preserved.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1912–1913 **Builder/Architect** Jacob Bippus/Clifford Shopbell & Co.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Boehne House, named "Monticello" by its first owner, John W. Boehne, was constructed in the year that he retired as a two-term U. S. Congressman. (Prior to that, Boehne had first served as councilman followed by a term--1905 to 1909--as Mayor of Evansville.) This residence is one of only several Colonial Revival houses built on a grand scale in Evansville, but its large site and sturdy construction give it a singular status. The mansion is significant for a number of other reasons. Boehne's prominence in politics was matched by his role in the industrial life of Evansville. As an officer and investor in a number of corporations (Indiana Stove Works and the Globe-Bosse-World Furniture Company, to name two), he was a leader in the industrial as well as the political life of the city early in this century. As a philanthropist, Boehne's most visible beneficence was the establishment of the Boehne Tuberculosis Hospital which served as an area treatment center for about half a century. The monumental scale and the careful design of the Boehne residence, planned by the premier architectural firm of Clifford Shopbell and Company and built by Jacob Bippus and Son, noted for quality construction, make it one of the most significant buildings in Evansville.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.5 acres

Quadrangle name Evansville South, IN-KY

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	6	4	5	2	1	8	0	4	2	0	2	4	1	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Monticello, Shanklin's Subdivision, part lot 3. Knight Township. (See continuation sheet)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joan Marchand, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization Dept. of Metropolitan Development date 20 November 1981

street & number 216 Washington Avenue telephone 812/426-5487

city or town Evansville 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *James M. Pederson*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 12-30-82

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u><i>John Alonzo Byers</i></u> Keeper of the National Register	Entered in the National Register date <u>2/17/83</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

Atlases, City Directories and Histories

Evansville City Directories, 1858+

Gilbert, Frank M. History of the City of Evansville and Vanderburgh County, Indiana. 2 vols. Chicago: Pioneer Publishing Co., 1910.

Griffing's Atlas of Vanderburgh County, Indiana. Philadelphia: D. J. Lake & Co., 1880; reprint ed., Evansville: Unigraphic, Inc., and Friends of Willard Library, 1975.

An Illustrated Plat Book of Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties, Indiana. Evansville: Tillman & Fuller Publishing Co., 1899; reprint ed., Evansville: Unigraphic Inc., and Friends of Willard Library, 1975.

Reflections Upon a Century of Architecture, Evansville, Indiana.

Evansville: The Junior League of Evansville, Inc., 1977.

Remy, Richard W. Who's Who & Why. Evansville: The Author. c. 1907.

Public Records

Vanderburgh County, Indiana. Deed Indexes and Deeds (c. 1816+).

Vanderburgh County, Indiana. Plat Records (1818+)

Vanderburgh County, Indiana. Knight Township Assessor's Records.

Newspapers

"John W. Boehne Succumbs at 90." Evansville Courier, 28 December 1946.

"Landslide Victory for Boehne and A Victory for Good Government." Evansville Courier, 8 September 1905.

"Boehne House." Evansville Journal News, 8 September 1912.

"Boehne Camp Campaign." Evansville Journal News, 29 September 1912.

Photographic reproduction of the Boehne House. Evansville Journal News, 8 June 1913.

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

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For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet John W. Boehne House

Item number 10

Page 2

The former Boehne property comprises part of lot 3, Shanklin's subdivision of Sec. 38, T6S, R10W, and includes the following described land: Beginning at a point on the centerline of Lincoln Avenue at the northwest corner of Shanklin's subdivision of the South West Quarter of Section 28, Township 6 South, Range 10 West, being also the North West corner of lot 3 in said subdivision and extending thence east along the centerline of Lincoln Avenue 185 28/100 feet; thence south 377 feet; thence west 185 25/100 feet; thence north along the west line of said lot 3 to the place of beginning, excepting 30 feet off the north end for the right-of-way of Lincoln Avenue.