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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Brenau College District includes those college structures and surrounding residential structures within the boundaries defined as follows: Beginning at the intersection of Washington Street and Boulevard proceed west to the rear lot lines of structures on the west side of Boulevard; thence proceed north along the rear lot line of the structure on the northwest corner of the intersection of Academy Street and Boulevard; thence proceed east following the rear lot lines of structures on the north side of Academy Street to the rear lot lines of the structures on the east side of Prior Street; thence proceed south following the rear lot lines to Washington Street; thence west on Washington to its point of intersection with Prior Street; thence south on Prior Street to the intersection of the rear lot lines of structures on the south side of Washington Street; thence following rear lot lines to Boulevard Street; thence north on Boulevard to the point of origin.

The significant structures in the Brenau district date from 1878-1920 and include examples of Queen Anne, Second Empire and Neo-Classic Revival styles. Although several of the major college structures were modified in the 1940's and 1950's, they still retain the major architectural elements that make them significant. In addition to the significant buildings, there are ten structures that would be considered intrusions because of their recent date of construction.

Wilkes Hall, the first college structure, was constructed in 1878 and now serves the college as a residence hall. The original two-story brick structure was of the Queen Anne style. The front facade features a central two-story bay topped by an elaborately detailed dome. The front roof line terminates in a cove vaulted dome on either end. The original one-story semi-circular porch with side projections featured balustrades and Victorian bracketing but was destroyed by a storm in 1947. It was replaced by a twostory portico supported by four square columns. The brick has been painted to match other buildings on the central campus.

Yonah Hall, c. 1890, faces south and abutts the southern end wall of Wilkes Hall. This three-story structure built of brick is in the Georgian Revival style. The front facade is symmetrical in design featuring a cornice with dentil molding. The central portion of the structure projects from the rectangular building and has a two-story portico supported by four fluted square columns. The foyer has an arched entrance flanked by Corinthian order pilasters. The entryway features double doors with elliptical lights and a rectangular transom inscribing a fanlight detail. First-story windows have segmental arches with radiating voussoirs.

Bailey Hall and Pearce Auditorium form the most prominent structure on the campus. Built c. 1890, the exterior design features elements of the Second Empire style, specifically exemplified by its height, size, central and end pavillions, and overall three dimensional effect. The pavillions have shingled mansard roofs typical of the style. end pavillions feature dormers with arched and rounded windows. Other exterior decorative features include: raised-relief tablets on the upper floor and above some of the dormer windows; arched doorways and windows; and heavy brick pilasters. The square columns were added between 1956 and 1960.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Brenau College District is significant for its contribution to higher education for women, its association with men influential in establishing higher education in Georgia, and its association with the developing city of Gainesville.

The founding of what is now Brenau College began in 1877 when the Georgia Baptist Covention, meeting in Gainesville, was approached with the idea of sponsoring an institution to provide higher education for women Headed by Dr. W. C. Wilkes, pastor of the Baptist Church in Gainesville, the citizens of Gainesville worked to raise funds for the new school which they called the Baptist Female Seminary. The first building, known now as Wilkes Hall, was constructed on ten acres of land donated by the city and the first class entered the Seminary in September of 1878. Dr. Wilkes became president of the seminary and continued in this capacity until his death in 1886. With the loss of Dr. Wilkes' leadership, the governing body of the school, unsure of its future, placed the institution up for sale.

The college was purchased in 1886 by a twenty-six year old educator named Dr. Azor W. Van Hoose. He ran the school as a private institution until the depression of 1893 when he was forced, due to economic reasons, to sell a half interest in the school to Dr. Haywood J. Pearce. Dr. Pearce was a well known educator and religious leader in Georgia and joined Dr. Van Hoose as co-president. Under their joint leadership, Brenau experienced a period of expansion and improvement. In response to a request made by the two presidents, the citizens of Gainesville raised funds for the construction of an elaborate auditorium which was dedicated to the good of the college and the community in 1897.

In 1900, Dr. M. M. Riley, formerly of Greenville, South Carolina, joined Van Hoose and Pearce as a partner. He served the school for three years until his retirement. During the years of this partnership, the name of the school was changed from "Georgia Female Seminary and Conservatory of Music" to "Brenau College." Brenau means "like gold refined by fire" and was taken from the German "brennen" meaning to refine and the Latin "aurum" meaning gold.

Brenau developed a reputation for maintaining an excellent music conservatory which offered girls who were unable to complete high school or not, seeking a college degree, a chance to study music and fine art. Dr. Otto Phefferkorn, a native of Germany teaching at the Chicago Conservatory of Music, was retained by the Brenau College and Conservatory of Music to be director of the Conservatory.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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CONTINUATION SHEET Property Owners 2 **ITEM NUMBER** PAGE

Using Tax Maps and Blocks

Map #3 Block 1

▶1. Mrs. Leta Coleman Hosch Boulevard Street

22. Edward H. Shannon Boulevard Street

J. A. Webster Devige W. Hages 5/23/18 21. 111 Washington Street

Map #23 Block 3

1. Brenau .2. Mrs. W. R. Hughes, Sr. 610 Washington Street

3. Brenau

4. Zack C. Hayes 530 Washington Street

5. Mrs. L. C. Rew Elsi Christopher 1/23/17 520 Washington Street

6. Mrs. H. G. Feldman 510 Washington Dtreet

7. Brenau (President's Home)

Block 4

1. Brenau (Main Campus)

2. Brenau (Main Campus)

Block 5

6. Brenau

Brenau

Brenau

Map #38 Block 2

10. Brenau

11. Brenau

12. Brenau

13. Mrs. Emily P. Dunlap

Academy Street 635 Academy Street 14. J. B. Prosser, Sr.

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Map #24 Block 3

21. Brenau

22.

23. LKR. Sams

219 Boulevard

Block 2

21. Dorothy Brice (Mrs. R. A.) Vareling 5/23/78305 Boulevard green, g.

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The interior of the auditorium section of the building remains unaltered. The staircase to the auditorium balcony has an elaborately turned balustrade with carved newel posts. The auditorium was described in the June 3, 1897, edition of the <u>Gainesville Eagle</u> as being "...modeled on European examples having boxes and a dress circle..."

Details include stained glass windows both in the balcony and lower level and a ceiling fresco entitled "Aenaes at the Court of Dido." The painting was a gift to the college by the Senior Class of 1897 and is so enscribed. Advertisements during the 1890's mentioned the existence of a heated swimming pool in this building. The structural remains of this pool still remain in the basement.

Simmons Memorial Library is built in the Beaux-Arts Classical design. The brick two-story rectangular block structure has an entrance way framed by large fluted Ionic columns supporting an entablature under a high brick parapet that runs around the building. The frieze carried the name of the building in raised letters.

Overton Hall was built in 1909 in the Neo-Georgian Revival style. It is a two-story rectangular block building of painted brick. The hipped roof has hipped roof dormers on the front and side elevations. The facades are ornamented with single story height pilasters. Brick dentils decorate the upper story "entablature." Windows are paired and rectangular in shape with stone sills. The inset segmental arched entrance porch has ornamental plaster work above and the rectangular door features a transom with side lights.

Butler Hall was constructed in 1933 in the Neo-Georgian Revival style. Built in a "H" plan, the two-story structure rests on a daylight basement. Butler Hall is built of red brick with dark brick horizontal courses. The A-line roofs of the end wings face the street and terminate in clipped gables. The A-line roof that runs parallel to the street and joins the two legs of the "H" features a small cupola. The rectangular windows have stone sills and the central doorway is arched under a triangular pediment above.

The President's home, located at the corner of Washington Street and Boulevard, is one of the most outstanding residential structures in the district. It was built c. 1900 by the second president of the college, Dr. Azor Van Hoose. In 1911 the property was sold and did not return to the college until 1945. The structure has Georgian Revival proportions supported by four fluted Doric order columns. A heavy pediment with Greek Revival detailing in the Doric order surmounts the portico. Windows are one over one and there is a trabeated double doored entryway.

The interior of the structure is divided into two parts. One section is used as the private residence of the Brenau College president and the other serves the college for social activities such as teas and receptions. The interior has a beautifully carved staircase as well as neo-classic design mantels and iron fireplace covers.



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The Feldman House is adjacent to the President's home and was built ca. 1910. It is the home of one of Brenau College's professors. Built in the Georgian Revival style with Neo-Classical detailing, the home features a simple one story portico supported by slender Doric order columns. Windows are six over one and the entry-way consists of double doors each with six lights in the upper panel and a solid lower panel surmounted by a simple entablature supported by ogee brackets. The overall design of the home is symmetrical.

The structure at 610 Washington Street is a two-story modified Queen Anne residential structure owned by Brenau College. The porch across the front is supperted by turned posts. There is a triangular gable over the entrance. The high hipped roof has a square turret with pyramidal roof.

At 111 Washington Street is a one and one-half story Victorian cottage. The main section is under a high hipped roof with dormers. A-line roof wings project toward both streets. A porch with turned posts and spool work runs partially across both street facades to abut the wings. The structure sits upon a brick foundation. This residential structure marks the edge between the commercial structures to the south and east and the Brenau College area and is a significant anchor to the district.

The Perry-Hosch House is located at the corner of Bouleward and Brenau Streets. It is a two-story house built in the Queen Anne style with complex massing. The curved porch is supported by Tuscan columns and features a turned balustrade. The multiple A-line roofs have bracketed eaves with dentil moldings under the panels of the front windows.

The Dixon-Brice house at 305 Boulevard was built in 1903 to replace a structure destroyed by a tornado that occurred in that year. This house is supposed to possess structural additions that would help protect it from future tornados. Built in the Georgian Revival style with neo-classical detailing, the two story structure has a one-story veranda that wraps around one side. It is supported by Ionic order fluted columns that rest on stone piers. The cornices of the veranda and the upper story have dentil detailing. The lower veranda is surmounted by a portico directly over the entryway. It features paired Ionic order columns and dentil molding at the cornice. The front door has a rectangular transom light and is flanked by Ionic pilasters. Windows are one over one and there is stained glass in an upper story window. The chimney stacks are decorated with raised brick banding.

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Brannon Hall is located on Boulevard directly across from the Dixon-Brice House. It was built by Dr. T. J. Simmons who joined Dr. Pearce in 1909 to help direct the educational program at Brenau College. It is built in the Beaux-Arts Classical style. The most outstanding feature is the monumental portico supported by coupled Ionic columns and a balustrade. The dormer window above the portico has an arched opening and is placed above a balcony on the second story. The carved swag pattern in the frieze of the portico is continued around the cornice of the house. There is a one-story enclosed porch on the side street facade and a projecting wing in the rear. The structure sits on a high, rough-cut stone foundation.

Additionally, there are other residential and college structures built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, noted on the attached sketch map, which are not specifically mentioned but are compatible in scale and design, contributing to the overall design of the district. Eight later buildings which are chronological but not visual intrusions are noted on the sketch map.

The central Brenau campus faces a large grass covered quadrangle which features large trees and a fountain. One large oak tree on the front campus has a wooden platform and stairs and is known as the crow's nest. This platform is off limits to everyone except Brenau seniors and has been associated with Brenau tradition since 1910. The residences and college structures included in the district face the central campus and are placed on large, tree shaded lots. With few exceptions, these structures are well cared for with beautifully maintained yards.

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In 1909, Van Hoose sold his interest in Brenau to Dr. Pearce and went to Shorter College. Dr. Pearce ran the school alone for a year before selling a half interest to Dr. and Mrs. T.J. Simmons, formerly associated with Shorter College. The school continued under this leadership until the death of Mrs. Simmons in 1913 when Dr. Pearce bought back their interest.

In 1917, Dr. Pearce formed a board of trustees to whom he agreed to donate Brenau if an endowment of \$500,000 was raised. This decision was made by Dr. Pearce because of his desire to ensure the future of Brenau. Through the generous donations of Brenau alumnae Mrs. Aurora Strong Hunt, as well as through local donations, the sum was raised. Although Dr. Pearce did relinquish ownership of the college, he continued as president until his death in 1943. He served the college for fifty years.

Under the leadership of Dr. Pearce, the college grew considerably. When Dr. Pearce joined Dr. Van Hoose, the school consisted of one major structure and housed sixty students. By 1945, the college property consisted of more than 350 acres of land, forty structures and had a student body of five hundred. Dr. Pearce's widow, Lucille Townsend Pearce, helped direct the school until a new president was found in 1945. Her interest in music and drama was felt on the campus and in the community throughout her husband's leadership and she brought many cultural events to the campus to benefit the college and the citizens of Gainesville.

During the early 20th century, several buildings were added to the central campus as well as to the lots facing onto the central campus. These buildings included: East Hall, 1902; North Hall, 1910; Geiger Music Building, 1912; Sidney Lanier Hall, 1916; student union, 1917; Oglesby Hall, 1919; Van Hoose Hall, 1926; and Butler Hall, 1933. Several other structures were added during the 1950's.

When Dr. Josiah Crudup became president of Brenau in 1945, he was faced with a school both in debt and not recognized by the national accrediting agency. Within two years, both problems had been eliminated and further expansion was begun. In an effort to improve the existing structures and provide a continuity of style between the older buildings and the new additions, Dr. Crudup added columns to many of the structures and worked to improve the overall appearance and condition of the campus.

Upon Dr. Crudup's retirement in 1968, Dr. William K. Clark serving as Vice-President of the college became president. During his two year tenure, Dr. Clark

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established the public relations division in an effort to improve the ties between the college and the community. Through the programs of this office, the citizens of Gainesville were kept informed of college activities and encouraged to participate in the programs sponsored by Brenau.

In 1970, Dr. James T. Rogers succeeded Dr. Clark as Brenau College's sixth president. Under his leadership, the college has continued to respond to the changing needs and direction of the students and the community.

Several of the presidents associated with Brenau were distinguished educators who are associated with the history of other Georgia colleges in addition to Brenau. Dr. Wilkes, first president of the institute, was educated at Mercer University receiving his degree with the second class to graduate from the school. While serving Forsyth, Georgia as a visiting Baptist minister, he founded Forsyth Female Collegiate Institute. He was thirty-one at the time.

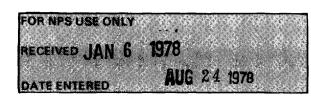
Dr. Van Hoose who succeeded Dr. Wilkes was graduated from the University of Georgia and received his W.L.D. at Mercer University. He served on the faculty at South Georgia College, Howard College (Marion, Alabama) and at the University of Georgia before purchasing Brenau at the age of twenty-six. Upon leaving Brenau, Dr. Van Hoose went to Shorter College where he served as president from 1910 until his death in 1921.

Dr. Van Hoose's partner, Dr. Haywood Jefferson Pearce, was also a distinguished educator. Dr. Pearce received his degree from Emory at Oxford with graduate degrees from the University of Chicago and the University of Wuerzburg, Germany. He served as the first president of the Southern Association of Women's Colleges which he was instrumental in establishing.

The citizens of Gainesville have always supported the idea of higher education in their community. Enthusiastic in their support of colleges, the city of Gainesville provided the young people of North Georgia a wide variety of educational opportunities. In the 1880's, Gainesville's population numbered approximately 4,000 and yet the city supported three colleges. These included, in addition to Brenau, the Methodist College (a co-educational institute founded in 1880) and Gainesville College (a city-sponsored co-educational college founded in 1878). The area citizens responded to several requests for money by Brenau including the original funds donated in 1878, money for the auditorium in 1897 and donations to the endowment fund in 1917.



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Dorothy Orr, History of Education in Georgia, U.N.C. Press, Chapel Hill, 1950. Brenau College Bulletins, Volume XIII, #1, 1921-22; Volume XXV, #3, 1933; Volume XXXV, #3, 1943.

Brenau College Archives, Brenau College, Gainesville, Georgia. Interview with Mrs. H. J. Feldman, Sept. 11, 1977, by Lyn Waskiewicz. On-site inspection by Lyn Waskiewicz.



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Boundary CONTINUATION SHEET Description

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

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GE 2

with Prior Street; thence, south on Prior Street to the intersection of the rear lot lines of structures on the south side of Washington Street; thence, following rear lot lines to Boulevard Street; thence north on Boulevard to the point of origin.

(not drawn to scale)

BRENAU COLLEGE NATIONAL REGISTER DISTRICT - GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA NOVEMBER 16, 1977

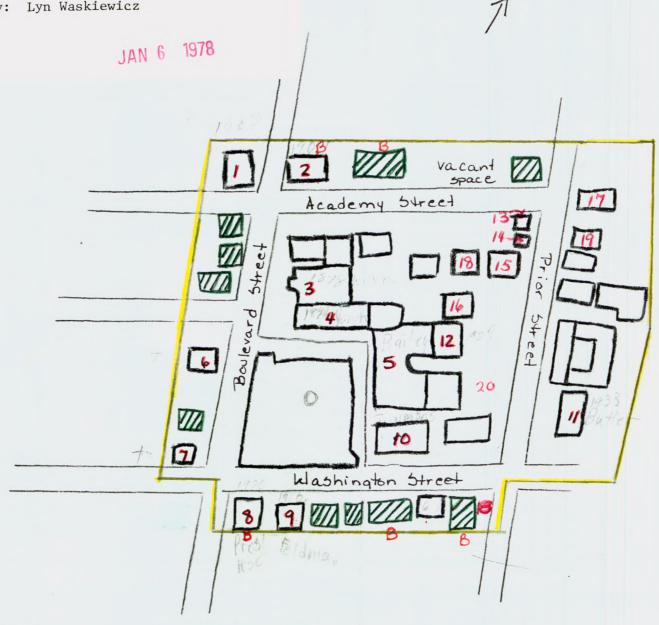
Brenau College District, Gainesville,

Hall County

Source: Map of Brenau College

Date: November 1977

Scale: Not drawn to scale Drawn By: Lyn Waskiewicz



[111] Indicates structures of later construction-not visual intrusions

Outstanding Structures

- 1 Dixon Brice House
- 2- Brannon Hall (Simprons House)
- 3- Wilkes Hall
- 4- Yonah Hall
- 5- Bailey Hall- Pearce Auditorium
- 6. Perry- Hosch House
- 7. Victorian cottage
- 8. President's home
- 9. Feldman House
- 10. Simmons Memorial Library

11. Buller Hall

12. Overton Hall

965 -November DIVINGS ο£ Grounds TANIS OF STREET, STREET and Buildings $\mathcal{C}\mathfrak{O}$ sting

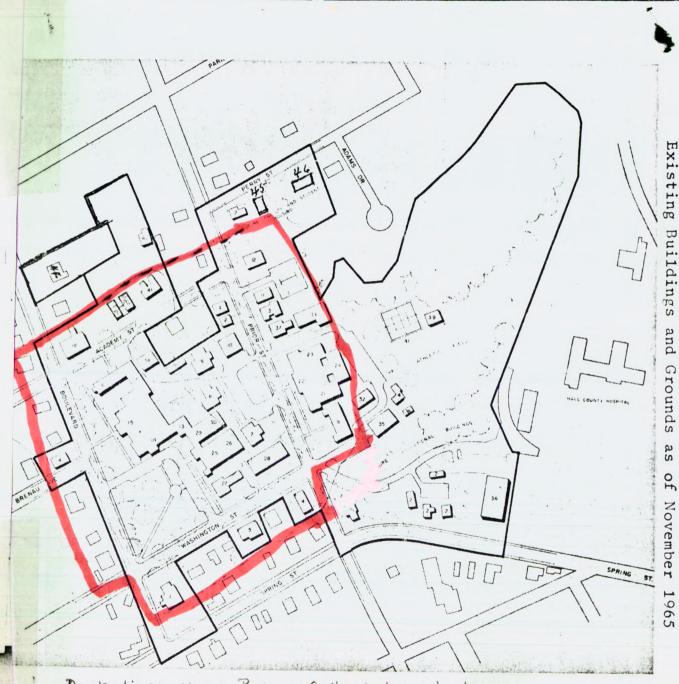
CAMPUS

BRENAU COLLEGE

1 President's House
2 Faculty House
3 Faculty Duplex
4 Faculty Apartment
5 Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority
6 Phi Mu Sorority
7 Alpha Chi Omega Sorority 7 Alpha Chi Omega Sorority 8 Delta Delta Delta Sorority 9 Alpha Delta Pi Sorority 10 Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority 11 Delta Zeta Sorority 12 Chi Omega Sorority 13 East Hall Dorm 14 Yonah Hall Dorm 15 Wilkes Hall Dorm 16 West Hall Dorm 17 North Hall Dorm 18 Branham Hall Dorm 19 Dorm 20 Dorm 20 Dorm
21 Lanier Hall Dorm
22 Crudup Hall Dorm
23 Oglesby Hall Dorm
24 Van Hoose Dorm
25 Auditorium 26 Music 27 Library 28 Science 29 Business Administration 30 Speech 31 Butler Hall (Class) 32 Art 33 Home Economics 34 Academy Hall (Class) 35 Gymnasium 36 Recreation Building 37 Infirmary 38 Heat Plant 39 Field House 40 Tea House 41 Tennis Court 42 Faculty Apts. 43 Students Club House 44 FACULTY APTS 45 FACULTY HOME 46 FACULTY HOME RECEIVED MAR NATIONAL REGISTER

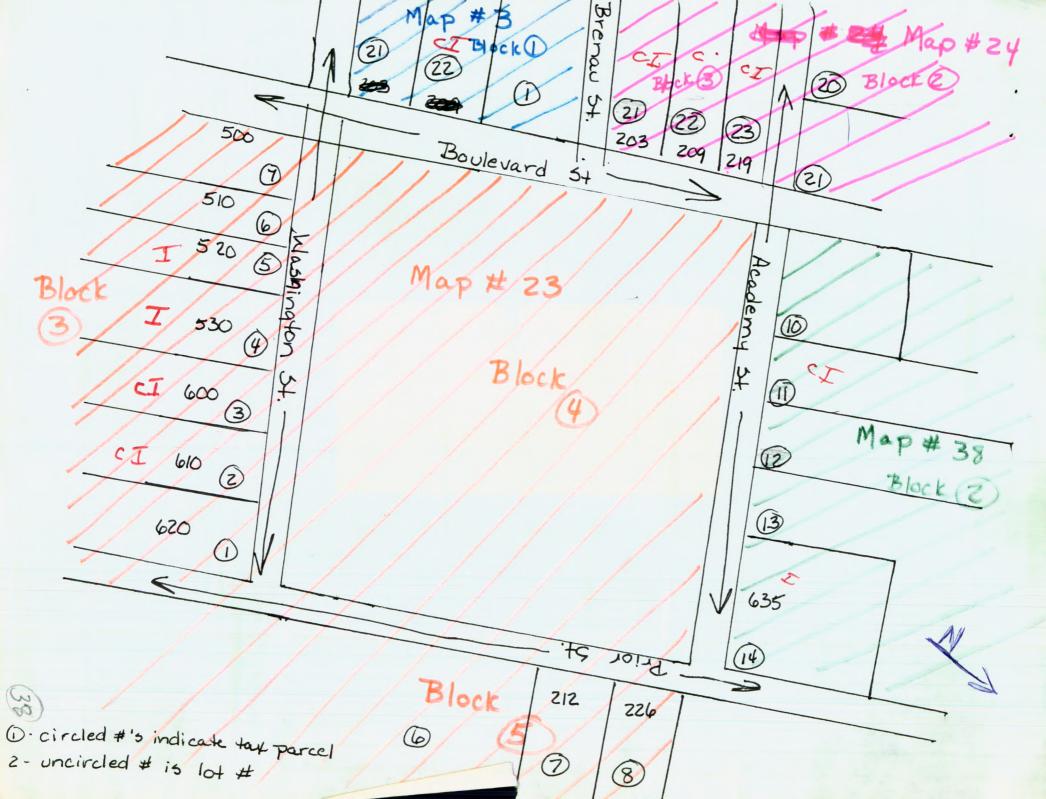
1 President's House 2 Faculty House 3 Faculty Duplex 4 Faculty Apartment 5 Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority 6 Phi Mu Sorority 7 Alpha Chi Omega Sorority 8 Delta Delta Delta Sorority 9 Alpha Delta Pi Sorority 10 Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority 11 Delta Zeta Sorority 12 Chi Omega Sorority
13 East Hall Dorm
14 Yonah Hall Dorm 15 Wilkes Hall Dorm 16 West Hall Dorm 17 North Hall Dorm 18 Branham Hall Dorm 19 Dorm 20 Dorm 21 Lanier Hall Dorm 22 Crudup Hall Dorm 23 Oglesby Hall Dorm 24 Van Hoose Dorm 25 Auditorium 26 Music 27 Library 28 Science 29 Business Administration 30 Speech 31 Butler Hall (Class) 32 Art 33 Home Economics 34 Academy Hall (Class) 35 Gymnasium 36 Recreation Building 37 Infirmary 38 Heat Plant 39 Field House 40 Tea House 41 Tennis Court 42 Faculty Apts. 43 Students Club House 44 FACULTY APTS 46 FACULTY HOME

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CAMPUS

Dark lines show Brenau College boundaries Red lines indicate National Register boundaries



Brenau College District, Gainesville,

Hall County Source: Tax map

Scale: Not drawn to scale

Date: July 1977

Drawn by: Lyn Waskiewicz

JAN 6 1978