



1329

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 any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. 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 Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity House
other names/site number LC13:F12-296

2. Location

street & number 5305 Huntington Avenue [N/A] not for publication
city or town Lincoln [N/A] vicinity
state Nebraska code NE county Lancaster code 109 zip code 68503

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 36 CFR 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.)

Signature of certifying official Bob Ruchendorf DSHPO Date 10/12/05
Nebraska State Historical Society
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 this 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): _____

Signature of Keeper Edson H. Beall Date of Action 11-25-05

Phi Kappa Tau House

Name of Property

Lancaster County, Nebraska

County and State

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.)

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

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

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)

EDUCATION/education-related housing

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/education-related housing

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVAL
Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	NOT VISIBLE
walls	BRICK
roof	COMPOSITION
other	

Narrative Description

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

See 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 a 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)

Education

Period of Significance

1928-1955

Significant Dates

1928

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Meginnis, Harry

Schaumberg, Edward G

Robey, Frank (Builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

See Continuation Sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical 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
Record # _____
- 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:
Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department

Phi Kappa Tau House

Name of Property

Lancaster County, Nebraska

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

- | | | | | | | |
|-------|---------|----------|----------------------------|---------|----------|--|
| 1. 14 | 698500 | 4523200 | 3. | | | |
| Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 2. | | | 4. | | | |
| | | | [] See continuation sheet | | | |

Verbal Boundary Description

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

See Continuation Sheet.

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Erika N. Rasmussen, historic preservation intern and Edw. F. Zimmer, PhD, historic preservation planner

organization Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department date July 5, 2005

street & number 555 South 10th Street telephone (402) 441-6360

city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68508

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Upsilon of Phi Kappa Tau c/o Lance Hall

street & number 3825 Dudley Street telephone (402)430-3474

city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68503

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity House
Name of Property
Lancaster County, Nebraska
County and State

DESCRIPTION

The Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity House of Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, Nebraska, is a two and one half-story, red-brick Period Revival structure located at 5305 Huntington Avenue in Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska. The architects were Harry Meginnis and Edward G. Schaumberg and Frank Robey served as contractor when the fraternity was built in 1928. In 1971, a sensitive addition was completed by the architectural firm Harold Hoskins & Associates, while M.W. Anderson served as contractor.

The Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity House of Nebraska Wesleyan University is a two and one half-story structure built in 1928, located at 5305 Huntington Avenue in historic University Place, Lincoln, Nebraska. The Nebraska Wesleyan University campus is adjacent to the north, across Huntington Avenue. The brick building was designed in the Period Revival style by the Lincoln architects Meginnis and Schaumberg (Harry Meginnis and Edward G. Schaumberg). Huntington Avenue runs through the historic University Place neighborhood which is home to Nebraska Wesleyan University, a private liberal arts school which was established in 1887. Although Meginnis and Schaumberg are well-known for designing several Greek houses on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus, the Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity House is the only one of its kind at Nebraska Wesleyan University. Other Greek chapter houses at Nebraska Wesleyan occupy newer or severely altered houses. The Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity House is adjoined by residential homes to the south and university parking to the west and east. To the north, the fraternity is adjacent to the Marion and Marian Weary Center for Health and Fitness located on Nebraska Wesleyan's campus.

The Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity House's principal street facades are oriented towards Huntington Avenue on the north and 53rd Street on the west. The original portion of the house is built of red brick with rough clinkers interspersed in common bond (6:1 header/stretcher). The formal entrance is located on the north facade and features square piers supporting a segmental arch with returns. The north face of the original structure has six bays with four dormers above. For the older portion of the house, the first-level windows on the north facade feature blind rowlock arches infilled with headers, the second-level windows on the north facade are detailed with flat arches consisting of soldiers complete with keystone, and the third-level windows are housed in shed dormers.

The north face of the addition has four bays with two dormers above. The addition's brickwork closely follows the original portion (without the clinkers) in 5:1 common bond. The windows on the addition's north facade mimic those of the original in that the first- and second-level windows possess decorative wooden shutters and the third-level windows are also housed in shed dormers. However, there are no arches ornamenting the first- and second-level windows of the addition. The eastern end of the north face of the addition has a large blind arch which balances the entrance on the western end of the north face of the original portion of the building. The west facade facing 53rd Street features a secondary entrance containing a hood on brackets above the door. The west roof has a long shed dormer with three windows.

The rear windows to the south are functionally arranged and echo the rowlock sills consistent throughout the rest of the building. The south side also features large shed dormers. The east side of the house consists of an informal entrance leading from the parking lot to the addition which contains a kitchen and dining room with all sleeping rooms above.

The interior of the building has been altered to accommodate the addition, but still retains significant features. The north entrance leads to an entry hall opening on the formal parlor which occupies most of the first level. The dominant feature of the parlor is the fireplace on the east wall fashioned from the same wood as the wide molding found around the room. The mantel of the fireplace is inscribed with a cryptic fraternity motto.

The west entrance opens to what remains of the main stair which is now enclosed with a fire door and walls. The original chapter room survives and is located in the basement. It displays brick walls, but few other original finishes. Sleeping rooms comprise the second- and third-levels.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number

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Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity House

Name of Property

Lancaster County, Nebraska

County and State

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity House of Nebraska Wesleyan University is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of education as the only original Greek chapter house at Nebraska Wesleyan University which retains historic integrity.

Nebraska Wesleyan University

Nebraska Wesleyan University is a private liberal arts institution affiliated with the United Methodist Church. The university was established in 1887 with the construction of "Old Main" which survives and is listed on the National Register. The university was built near the city of Lincoln, Nebraska. The neighborhood surrounding the university developed as a result of the influx of students and faculty to the area, but remained a separate jurisdiction as the town of University Place until 1926, and is now known as the University Place Historic Residential District (NRHP). As the university grew and its surrounding community grew, new student organizations developed similar to those already in place at the much larger University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Nebraska Wesleyan University and Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity

The Nebraska Wesleyan University chapter of Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity began as the Orophilian literary society in October, 1888. The various literary societies evolved into Greek fraternal orders and eventually the Greek system was formally recognized at Nebraska Wesleyan in 1920. In the early days of Nebraska Wesleyan, most male students were housed in the main university building while the majority of female students boarded with neighborhood families or faculty members. As the University and the Greek chapters grew, lodging space became limited and the need for either dormitories or Greek houses became apparent. As a result, the Greek societies lobbied for approval to build their own houses in which to live and conduct fraternal business. In the mid-1920's the university finally granted approval for fraternities and sororities to construct their own chapter houses. Phi Kappa Tau began construction on their house on May 21, 1928 at 5305 Huntington Avenue, just south of the university campus. Greek organizations grew in popularity and population. Most Greek societies were short lived or experienced difficulty acquiring a permanent residence. Phi Kappa Tau has persevered and has managed to remain in the original chapter house.

There are currently 8 Greek houses surrounding the Nebraska Wesleyan campus, 4 sororities and 4 fraternities. Of these, Phi Kappa Tau is one of the oldest and the only chapter to reside in its original house. Most of the Nebraska Wesleyan Greek chapter houses are late 20th Century replacements of early 20th Century chapter houses. Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority, the only other Greek house which may have at one time qualified for designation, resides in an historic house but has been severely altered and as a result, is disqualified from consideration on the basis of loss of historic integrity. The Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity House is not only unique due to its status as the only historic Greek house on Nebraska Wesleyan's campus, it should also be noted that the architects of Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity House, Meginnis and Schaumberg, also designed the Beta Theta Pi, Alpha Phi, and Delta Tau Delta Houses, part of Greek Row Historic District (NRHP) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Meginnis and Schaumberg were not only well-known Lincoln architects, they were often identified with Period Revival architecture of traditional Greek houses.

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Section number 9 & 10 Page 7

Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity House
Name of Property
Lancaster County, Nebraska
County and State

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Mickey, David H.

Of Sunflowers, Coyotes and Plainsmen: A History of Nebraska Wesleyan University. Vols. 1 & 2. Lincoln: Nebraska Wesleyan University, 1992.

"Greek Row Historic District" (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), nomination to National Register of Historic Places, 1997.

City of Lincoln Building Permits.

Nebraska Wesleyan University website, accessed 10 August 2005:

<http://www.nebrwesleyan.edu/university/history.php>

10. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The fraternity house is located at the southeast corner of North 53rd Street and Huntington Avenue, on a parcel measuring 200 feet east-west by 142 feet north-south, legally described as Lots 3, 4, 5 and 6 of Block 100 of University Place Addition, in Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The designated property includes all the land historically associated with Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity House.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photographs Page 8

Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity House

Name of Property

Lancaster County, Nebraska

County and State

PHOTO LIST

All photos:

Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity House, Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska.
E. Zimmer, photographer, Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Dept.
July 2005

Photo 1 of 6

View from northwest showing north (left/center) and west (right) facades.

Photo 2 of 6

View from the northeast showing east (left) and north (center/right) facades.

Photo 3 of 6

Detail of the northwest corner of Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity house, showing entrances.

Photo 4 of 6

Detail of principal, north entrance to Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity house.

Photo 5 of 6

View from southwest of rear (south side).

Photo 6 of 6

View east in main parlor, first floor.