

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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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 Valentine House

and/or common Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity House

2. Location

street & number 1101 Riverside Avenue

N/A not for publication

city, town Muncie

N/A vicinity of

~~Congressional district~~

state Indiana

code 018

county Delaware

code 035

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: Fraternity House

4. Owner of Property

name Sigma Tau Gamma Housing Board

street & number 1101 Riverside

city, town Muncie

N/A vicinity of

state Indiana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Delaware County Recorder

street & number 100 West Main

city, town Muncie

state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town

state

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The John Valentine House is an excellent example of Prairie School architecture as developed by Barry Byrne. The house is set back from a busy street on a shady lot at the edge of Ball State University's campus. A long, low, rectangular, two-story brick building, it is noted for its simplicity of design and distinctive decorative detailing.

The solid expanse of brick wall on the main, north facade is broken at the center by the main entrance and the oriel window directly above it. However, symmetry is not essential to the composition of the facade. On the first floor, there are three groups of narrow casement windows, with two groups of windows on the right of the entrance and a single group of windows on the left. While the group of windows on the left contains four windows, one group on the right contains two windows, and the other has three windows. On the second floor, there are two sets of ribbon windows, ^{one} on either side of the oriel. Iron grillwork runs along the base of the windows on the right. All of the windows have the appearance of being cut into the solid brick wall, and they are grouped so as to consume the least amount of wall space and leave the solid masses of wall undisturbed.

The most prominent feature of the north facade is the unusual, three-sided oriel window on the second story above the main entrance. The oriel has a tall, narrow window on each side, with copper trim. An ornamental figure of a long-necked bird stands on top of the oriel. Directly below the oriel, the main entrance, with its plain door surrounded by small stone quoins, provides a contrast to the distinctive oriel.

Unusual, tubular copper guttering runs around the house at the eaveline. Distinctive curved ornaments decorate the cornice at each corner of the house. The house also features a low hipped roof of red tile. In keeping with the horizontal emphasis, the chimneys are low and broad.

On the south, or rear, facade, a small wing projects from the building. Adjacent to the east side of this wing is a two-story, roughly octagonal solarium, with tall, narrow windows on all sides. The windows overlook what was once a landscaped garden. In the south wing, the entrance is a plain door with sidelights. On either side of the entrance are brick pilasters, with decorative panels above them. A terrace leading from the south entrance connects the house to the former landscaped garden, which is no longer kept up. Beyond the terrace is a sunken fountain in poor condition. A half-circle cement theater bench faces the fountain. Two retaining walls surround the fountain at the edge of the terrace. A pair of Chinese elms are the surviving remnants of the garden.

The west side of the house was altered in the 1960's, when the garage on this side was converted into a bedroom.

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"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Ca. 1918

Builder/Architect Barry Byrne

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The John Valentine House, built in 1918, is significant as an example of the mature style of Prairie School architect, Barry Byrne. The John Valentine House, with its low, horizontal lines and wooded setting, is a classic example of Prairie School architecture. The plain, almost austere appearance of the house illustrates Byrne's trend toward greater simplicity of design after 1915.

Byrne joined the Oak Park studio of Frank Lloyd Wright in 1902. After serving an apprenticeship of six years, Byrne left Wright's office in 1908. Byrne's architecture continued to show the influence of Wright until 1915, when Byrne began to move toward greater simplicity and independence from Wright in his designs. The Valentine House, with its low roof and ribbon windows cut into plain brick walls, provides a good example of Byrne's use of simple lines and broad, unbroken surfaces. Despite the severity of design, the house is given a measure of elegance through the use of distinctive ironwork, decorative copper guttering, and unique oriel windows. These features mark the house as Byrne's personal version of the Prairie School style. The house is pictured and described in H. Allen Brooks' The Prairie School.

Byrne submitted the floor plans to John Valentine in 1917, and records show that Valentine paid \$18,000 to several private contractors in September of 1918. This indicates that the house was under construction at that time.

There are few buildings in Indiana designed by Frank Lloyd Wright or his Studio employees. The Valentine House is thus significant as one of the state's most important examples of the Prairie School style.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Brooks, H. Allen. The Prairie School: Frank Lloyd Wright and his Midwest Contemporaries. New York: Norton, 1972, pp. 323-5.
- Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1969, p. 205

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Muncie West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	6	3	6	3	2	0	4	4	5	0	9	7	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The property includes lots one through four, and eight through ten of block four, in the Plat of Riverside, as shown on page 70 of Plat Book One of the Recorder's Office, Delaware County, Indiana.

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 Dolph L. Davis, Jr.

organization Sigma Tau Gamma Historical Comm. date May 3, 1980

street & number 1101 Riverside Avenue telephone 317/232-8675

city or town Muncie 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 J. M. Redman

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 11-22-82

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration