

FINAL

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 an 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 Vigo County Home for Dependent Children  
other names/site number Glenn Home 167-579-30018

2. Location

street & number 7140 Wabash Avenue N/A  not for publication  
city or town Terre Haute N/A  vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county Vigo code 167 zip code 47803

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 36CFR 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] 5/4/00  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
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 the property is:

|  |                         |                |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register.<br><input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.             | Signature of the Keeper | Date of Action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register<br><input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet. | _____                   | _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register   | _____                   | _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register  | _____                   | _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)   | _____                   | _____          |

Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_

County and State \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 2            | 0               | buildings  |
| 0            | 0               | sites      |
| 0            | 0               | structures |
| 0            | 0               | objects    |
| 2            | 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)

DOMESTIC: Institutional Housing

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: Education-Related

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

19th & 20th c. REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other CONCRETE

**Narrative Description**

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

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1903 - 1949

Significant Dates

1903

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Miller, Martin

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic 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 #
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:

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property**    less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

|   |             |                        |                           |
|---|-------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | 1 6<br>Zone | 4 7 3 7 0 0<br>Easting | 4 3 7 0 7 3 0<br>Northing |
| 2 |             |                        |                           |

|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| 3 |  |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |  |

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Glory-June Greiff

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 6/27/99

street & number 1753 South Talbott telephone 317-637-6163

city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46225

**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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Iota Delta of Pi Kappa Alpha Housing Corporation, c/o William J. Eccles

street & number 5500 Wabash Avenue #121 telephone 812-877-8125

city or town Terre Haute state IN zip code 47803

**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 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 Projects (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 1

~~VIGO COUNTY HOME FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN~~ VIGO COUNTY, INDIANA

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The former Vigo County Home for Dependent Children sits upon a hill overlooking US40 to the south, about five miles east of Terre Haute. The part of the drive leading off (and almost paralleling) the highway before it turns northward up the hill was originally the National Road. There are remnants of a bridge west of the curve in the drive leading up the slope. The original property was sixty acres (later increased to 116), much of which had been farmed to provide food for the home and surplus to sell. Today the parcel on which the former children's home rests is about 23 acres. Only a small portion of this is included in the nomination. A juvenile detention center is located to the northwest, on property that was once part of the home. The surrounding area, which was almost entirely farmland as recently as the 1960s, contains a moderate amount of suburban residential development. The hamlet of East Glenn lies to the east.

The Vigo County Home for Dependent Children began as a cohesive cluster of buildings (an administration building with three dormitories of similar design) influenced by the Georgian Revival style, placed in a hilltop campus setting. The property retains a number of mature deciduous trees that likely were planted at the time of the initial construction. The original dormitory buildings are gone, but the main building, constructed in 1903, survives, along with its boilerhouse to the northwest. It is these two contributing buildings that comprise the nomination.

The main building (photos 1,2), of brick with a hipped roof, stands at the crest of the hill. It is a two-and-a-half story building over a raised basement; originally it had gabled dormers, which have been removed. The roof of the front section is hipped west-east and flanked with two tall rectangular brick fireplace chimneys; the middle section is hipped north-south. The rear portion, possibly built a bit later, has a gabled roof with a parapet. There is a one-story flat-roofed addition on the north. All the original windows, with concrete sills and wood frame double-hung sashes are in place; most are six-over-one or nine-over-one.

The six-bay main south facade is marked by a semi-circular two-story flat-roofed portico supported by four Doric columns that are embellished with egg-and-dart capitals. Within the recessed-arched entrance the door is surmounted by a stained-glass fanlight and flanked by clear sidelights. The entrance portico is flanked on the first floor by arched windows, each composed of narrow four-over-one double hung sashes flanking a center six-over-one sash, all surmounted by a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7.8 Page 2

~~VIGO COUNTY HOME FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN~~ VIGO COUNTY, INDIANA

tripartate fanlight. The window arches feature concrete keystones. All the remaining windows of the front (south) section of the building are flat-arched, and all have concrete keystones.

The main building once housed administrative offices, public rooms, and staff residences. At times the top floor, a finished attic, may have been used to house children; records are sparse. Most of the interior trim and details remain intact (see photos 3,4), notably two glazed tile corner fireplaces in the parlors that flank the central hall. The rooms also boast parquet floors.

To the northwest of the main building stands the former boilerhouse (photo 5) that once provided heat for all the buildings on the campus. Overgrown with vines and surrounded by scrub trees, the structure is not quite the ruin it at first appears to be. The hipped roof with its cupola (also with hipped roof) is intact, as is the tapered smokestack. The building remains basically sound, albeit in need of stabilization. Several doors and windows are missing, and the interior is empty but for considerable trash.

Clustered around the main building and the boilerhouse are three postwar dormitories, a former hospital/treatment center to the north, a gymnasium built in 1926, and a few outbuildings. None of these are included in the nomination.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As a significant remnant of the county's first children's guardian home, established early this century as a temporary shelter for unwanted, neglected, or abused children, the Vigo County Home for Dependent Children is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of social history. It represents the movement prevalent during the Progressive Era for reform in the area of child welfare.

When it opened in 1903, the Vigo County Home for Dependent Children was highly touted as--and likely was--one of the best in the state. Built on the so-called "cottage plan," the institution consisted of an administration building that contained offices and housing for staff and three dormitories, each of which had a large day room in addition to sleeping quarters. The architect was Martin Miller, about whom

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

~~VIGO COUNTY HOME FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN~~

VIGO COUNTY, INDIANA

records are frustratingly absent. He may have had some connection with the firm of Miller, Miller and Yeager, which designed some of the later buildings on the campus, but this is not verified. August Fromme was the contractor.

Only six years earlier the Indiana General Assembly had enacted a law authorizing the state to oversee better care and control of "orphan, dependent, neglected, and abandoned children." It prohibited keeping those from ages three to seventeen in poorhouses for longer than ten days duration, as had been standard practice in many counties. (The duration allowed was increased to sixty days in 1901.) The same act established a state agency for placing children, which would be under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Charities.

Vigo County already had the well endowed Rose Orphan Home in Terre Haute, opened in 1884 with a legacy from the estate of railroad magnate Chauncey Rose. As its name implied, it was for true orphans only. Circuit Court Judge David N. Taylor appointed the first Board of Children's Guardians presided over by Sydney B. Davis; they oversaw a system in which matrons were chosen to care for in their homes--usually farms--groups of neglected children, or sometimes individual children were placed in foster homes. The board immediately began efforts to have the county purchase a farm on which suitable buildings might be erected to care for all the dependent children in one place. In 1901 the county bought the sixty-acre Klatt farm on the north side of the National Road where it was crossed by the Vandalia Railroad, about five miles east of Terre Haute near the small town of Glenn.

In the summer of 1903, children began to arrive at the Vigo County Home for Dependent Children, which shortly afterward became known as the Glenn Home, for its location. Its first director was Ovid Lawrence, who remained until just before his death in 1917. Ovid's wife served as the principal matron; they lived in quarters in the main building, as did members of the staff. The children lived in three virtually identical two-story buildings, each containing dormitories and a day room, and each under the charge of a matron. During their stay at the home, the children attended school for a half a day and "kept busy at some occupation the other half." The boys worked the farm; the girls learned housekeeping skills. A sizable garden provided food for the table and helped keep down the expenses of running the institution.

The Glenn Home, by most accounts, was a model institution for its day. After an inspection in 1915, the State Board of Charities and Correction reported that "the work of this institution is to be commended throughout, and the county may well be proud of its work and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

~~VIGO COUNTY HOME FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN~~ VIGO COUNTY, INDIANA

management, there being nothing of this class superior to it in the state." Progressive Era ideals were in full bloom at the Glenn Home, touted in terms that may appear to us today as smug and self-congratulatory. The Home was seen by community leaders as "a Godsend to the unfortunate. . . . a haven of refuge to these children." Indeed, their lives were no doubt stabilized in the home; they were well fed and provided with clean beds and regular health care. In what was considered a particularly progressive move, the children were not required to wear uniforms, but were individually clothed, largely in garments of the girls' own making. Accommodations were modest but certainly made attractive with touches such as starched white curtains and beds of bright flowers lining the drive. The girls' being taught to sew, cook, and do housework, and the boys' instruction in farming and woodcraft clearly aided in the Home's successful efforts to be partly self-supporting. The children were taught "morals" as well, and "affection [was] implied through every act by the office of the institution."<sup>1</sup> The image portrayed was that the institution staff made every effort to create a home-like atmosphere such as many of these children had never enjoyed. The total number of children at Glenn Home at any time within a few years of its opening reached and continued to hover a little over one hundred.

The Glenn Home functioned successfully through several decades, continuing to balance school, vocational training, moral guidance, and some semblance of a home atmosphere. Improvements to the facility took place even during the Depression, with some of the work accomplished through WPA projects. After World War II the three original dormitories were replaced with modern buildings, coinciding with the 1949 closing of the Rose Orphans Home in Terre Haute, whose children were then placed in the Glenn Home. By the 1960s, however, the Home's population was decreasing, owing largely to the increase in the number of licensed foster homes. Large institutions like the Glenn Home were losing favor, and orphanages all over the state--and nation--were closing.

In 1973, Circuit Judge Joseph Anderson announced plans to close the Glenn Home because renovation was impractical, even though earlier that year the county commissioners had voted to fund not only neglected maintenance but even additional improvements. The judge also pointed out that the cost of maintaining a child at the Home cost twice as much as in foster care, and that, in any case, "the best vehicle for rearing children these days is the family-type atmosphere provided by the foster home." Plans fell through, however, largely because foster home

<sup>1</sup> "Nature Smiles on Glenn Home and Its Fortunate Tots," *Terre Haute Tribune* 5 August 1919.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8,9 Page 5

~~VIGO COUNTY HOME FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN~~ VIGO COUNTY, INDIANA

placements for teens were particularly difficult. Federal Title XX monies became available for the Glenn Home in 1978, which, since they reduced the amount of county funds needed, allowed the Home to remain open for about a year and a half longer. In 1979 the county purchased three group homes around Terre Haute to house dependent teens, and the Glenn Home for Dependent Children was closed. The property was sold at auction in early 1980.

During the 1980s the buildings were converted into apartments but later abandoned. Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity of nearby Rose-Hulman Institute purchased the buildings for use as a chapter house and housing for the students of the fraternity. The buildings are gradually being rehabilitated.

The Vigo County Home for Dependent Children is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of social history, because it represents Progressive Era movements for reform in the area of child welfare. The home was the county's--and among the state's--first children's guardian home, a temporary shelter for unwanted, neglected, or abused children,

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

*Annual Report of the Indiana State Board of Charities.* 1897-1905.

*Indiana Bulletin of Charities and Correction, 56th Quarter.* March 1904.

"Map of Vigo County, Indiana." Rockford, Illinois, 1902.

"Orphanages: Glenn Home for Children." Archival file, Vigo County Historical Society, Terre Haute.

*Standard Atlas of Vigo County, Indiana.* Terre Haute 1907.

*Terre Haute Tribune,* 1916-1925.

*Terre Haute Tribune-Star,* 1939-1980.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 6

~~VIGO COUNTY HOME FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN~~ VIGO COUNTY, INDIANA

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Starting at the southeast corner of the boundary, where the center of Kaperak Lane is perpendicular to the north-south sidewalk running on the east side of the main building, the boundary line extends 65 feet at a bearing of N84degrees46'48"W. The line then turns to N71degrees47'47"W and extends for 55 feet along the lane. The line then turns N38degrees55'20"W and extends for 46 feet along the lane. The line then turns N3degrees13'7"W and extends for 52 feet along the lane. The line then turns to N 0degrees17'57"W and extends for 83 feet along the lane until coming to ten feet from the south door to the boiler house.

The line then follows along the wall of the boiler house, an elevation drop and tree line at S79degrees4'40"W for 31 feet. The line then goes over the depression to the west of the boiler house at N4degrees24'46"W for 80 feet until coming to the center line of Brentlinger Lane. The line then follows the lane of crushed stone at S83degrees58'51"E for 90 feet until coming to the center of a parking area consisting of the same crushed stone. This brings the line to the northeast corner of the boiler house.

The line then turns S 1degree13'29"E and extends for 64 feet until reaching the start of an access road to the northwest corner of the main building. The line turns S43degrees21'43"E and follows along the access road for 75 feet. The line then turns N88degrees25'7"E and extends along the north side of the main building for 49 feet. The line then turns S 1degree10'32"W and follows the east edge of the sidewalk on the east side of the building for 138 feet until coming back to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification

Encompasses the two surviving original buildings of the Vigo County Home for Dependent Children.