

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 Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity House
other names/site number Maltese Manor, Indiana Gamma Omicron Chapter 157-333-13140

2. Location

street & number 314 Russell Street N/A not for publication
city or town West Lafayette N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Tippecanoe code 157 zip code 47906

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.)
J. C. SJK 1-29-02
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:

	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <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:) _____	_____	_____

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	
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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: Education-Related

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: Education-Related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions)

19th & 20th c. REVIVALS: Tudor Revival

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

STONE: Limestone

roof ASPHALT

other STUCCO

METAL: Copper

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)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1920

Significant Dates

1920

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Daggett, Robert Frost

Stackhouse, Allan

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:

Agricultural Administration Building, Purdue University

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

16	506900	4475000
Zone	Easting	Northing

3

Zone	Easting	Northing

2

--	--	--

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 Chad M. Rinker, Brother
organization Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity date 03-19-2001
street & number 49575 1000W telephone 765-768-6370
city or town Redkey state IN zip code 47373

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 Indiana Gamma Omicron Housing Corporation, President
street & number 314 Russell Street telephone 765-746-2612
city or town West Lafayette state IN zip code 47906

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.

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Section 7 - Description

The Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity house occupies a site off the Purdue University's main campus in West Lafayette, Indiana. The house sits on three city lots at the corner of Russell and 4th streets, and is 50' back from Russell Street. The surrounding area is transitional; a vestige of a residential neighborhood exists up and down Russell and Waldron Streets for a few blocks north and south of the house. Several fraternity and sorority houses on these streets have replaced the single family homes through the years. The main Engineering Campus section of Purdue lies two blocks east, and a section of university-built student housing begins one block to the west.

The Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity House is a 2 and ½ story, brick and stone clad, wooden frame, Tudor Revival style manor with a modified rectangular plan, truncated roof, and platform porch extending across the front facade. The interior of the house reflects Tudor Gothic influences also with its oak columns, oak gothic pointed doorways, stone floors, and its large limestone fireplaces.

The house is in excellent condition with one addition in 1963 to the south and a single floor kitchen addition to the east in the 1940's. The 1963 basement through third floor addition was designed to reflect the original design theme of the house. The only alterations to the exterior besides the addition are the replacement of the original slate shingles with a simulated slate, asphalt based shingle, and replacement of the original casement windows with double hung and horizontal sliding windows.

The house has always served as a fraternity since it was built in 1920. The house's main, historic, public rooms are located on the first level with the entry foyer, formal living room, dining room, and billiards room. The second and third levels have a total of 26 living quarters that hold anywhere from one to five students each. The exterior walls are finished in a stretcher bond brick pattern with smooth dressed limestone trim. The foundation is of concrete with the three chimneys built of brick.

The front facade of the building consists of nine vertical bays with a parapeted tower. The tower is placed to the south of the historic part of the house, balanced by through-the-cornice gabled dormers to the north. Along with the massive hip roof, the brick exterior, towers and dormers illustrate the Americanized version of Tudor era manors. Starting from the left, the first of the nine bays features 15-light French doors with a 12-light transom window. The chapter altered virtually all of the original fenestration at some point in recent decades. The original pattern for a typical ground floor opening was a pair of leaded casements or leaded French doors flanked by narrow fixed leaded sidelights, topped by leaded transoms. The same heavy mullions dividing the sidelights continued and divided the upper section into three transom windows, small ones flanking a longer one. The replacements are metal multi-paned double hungs or multi-paned French doors. Each has a new transom window. On the second level there are a pair of 12-light double hung windows. Both openings have limestone quoins framing them.

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The second and third bays are paired visually and reach three levels in height. The first of the two bays features French doors identical to those previously mentioned, and a pair of 12-light double hung windows on the second level. The third level consists of a dormer featuring a pair of 12-light double hung windows. Cut limestone facing of quoinwork joins the second and third level windows, there is a plain spandrel panel of stone between the second and third (attic) level windows. The spandrels mark the through-the-cornice wall dormers as they rise and terminate with a stone-coped, single crow-stepped gable. The dormer cheeks are faced in stucco and false half-timbering. The third bay is nearly identical to the second with the only difference being a 24-light horizontal sliding window with a 12-light transom substituting the French doors. The fourth bay is two levels in height and is nearly identical to the first bay. It consists of a 24-light horizontal sliding window with a 12-light transom on its first level and a pair of 12 light double hung windows on its second level.

The fifth and most dominant bay is the tower. It consists of the main entry door surrounded by a limestone gothic pointed arch with deep jambs, the stonework ending in a rectilinear quoined effect (photo 4). Two copper lights frame the door along with stepped limestone buttresses that are at 45-degree angles and protrude from the face of the tower (photos 2, 3, & 10). The stone buttresses continue upward as quoinwork, following the chamfered corners of the tower. Its main welcoming door is a 2 ½" thick solid oak replica of the original door. The massive door hangs from its original hinges and frame, and features the original wrought iron window grate and original copper threshold. A pair of 12-light double hung windows with a 12-light transom is located on the second level and is topped with a carved limestone label lintel (photo 5). A decorative carved limestone stringcourse with carved ornament rings the tower just above the window. The crenellated parapet of the tower conceals a third level window. Cheeks of stucco and false half-timbering join the tower parapet to the main roof. There are two windows on the south face of the tower, the first level consisting of a 16-light horizontal-sliding window with an 8-light transom. The second level window is a 16-light double hung that is framed by limestone.

The sixth bay originally consisted of a casement window on its first level but was replaced with a 15-light door, a 5-light side window and an 8-light transom. The second level of the bay contains a 16-light double hung window.

The main roof of the house is a steeply pitched hip roof with overhanging, open eaves. Originally clad in slate, the chapter re-roofed the house in asphalt shingles at some point, likely during the 1963 building campaign.

The seventh, eighth, and ninth bays are of the 1963 addition. An exposed corner, roof line, and original gutter clearly mark the beginning of the new addition. The design clearly pays reference to the historic portion of the house, mimicking the roof line, brick color, and even wall dormer element of the old house. However, most window openings lack the stone quoinwork. Each bay features 24-light

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horizontal sliding windows with 12-light transoms on the first level and a pair of 12-light double hung windows on the second level. The eighth bay includes a third level dormer with a pair of 12-light double hung windows and features the same limestone facing as the second and third bays. The North side of the house features 24-light horizontal sliding windows with 12-light transoms and 15-light French doors on the first level. A wood and stucco overhang on the second level includes a pair of 12-light windows. The original kitchen chimney divides a wood and stucco shed dormer on the third level (photo 11).

The rear of the house faces east and consists of various double hung and sliding windows of the same style as the front facade. Two wood and stucco shed dormers protrude from the third level of the original 1920 home and a more modern brick shed dormer protrudes from the third level of the 1963 addition (photo 12). The south side of the house has no windows and is all of brick.

The roof has three chimneys. The northern and largest chimney is from the original kitchen. It is constructed of brick with limestone accents and rises outside along all three floors. The middle chimney is made of brick and serves the house's two original fireplaces located on the first and basement levels of the home. The southern most chimney is used by the house's heating system located in the basement and is built of brick that is surrounded by mortar. The original copper trough-styled guttering is still in place. The house's structural system consists of post and beam with the beams being enclosed with oak recessed paneling on the interior (photos 7 & 13). A platform porch runs the length of the facade and features brick walls with limestone trim.

The entry foyer features the original, natural edge limestone floor, recessed panel doors and the main oak staircase (photos 14 & 15). A polygonal gothic column/pier of oak serves as the newel post for the oak, turned-baluster-railed staircase. To the north of the foyer, through the gothic pointed oak doorway, lies the formal living/gathering room. The room stretches the entire depth of the structure with windows opening to the front and rear of the home. The fireplace area is a focal point in the room, with recessed panel columns creating an inglenook. The Tudor arch limestone fireplace has a continuation of the stone floor at the base which is all original (photos 7, 8, & 13). Original gold plated wall sconces are located on every wall of the formal room. The billiards room is located behind the main staircase toward the rear of the house and features original twin floor-to-ceiling oak display cases with their doors shaped in a gothic pointed form (photo 9). A second smooth-cut limestone fireplace is located in the basement in a room historically called the "Bum Room" (photo 16). The room features knotty pine paneling installed in the 1960's and is used as a lounge by the members of the house.

Parking was added in the 1960's to the front of the property on the south side. A brick wall surrounding the parking lot screens the automobiles (photo 10). The eldest tree on the site, located on the north side of the house, is a honey locust dating back to the 1930's (photo 11). The house was

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remodeled along with the addition in 1963 and again remodeled in 1995 after a fire on the second and third floors, but the original historic features located on the first level were saved.

Section 8 - Statement of Significance

The Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity house at Purdue University meets National Register criterion C in the theme of architecture. The home represents the style of collegiate gothic architecture found at many university fraternity and academic buildings throughout the nation. This structure is a prime example of the craftsmanship and grandeur of the late 1800/ early 1900 building trends on university campuses. The home has a rich and well-documented history, from its occupant's birth as a group, to its fundraising, design and construction. It has served as a landmark for more than 80 years at Purdue University.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY'S FRATERNITY SYSTEM HISTORY

Alpha Tau Omega is located at Purdue University; a state institution organized under the Morrill Act of Congress, passed July 2, 1863. This act, signed by Abraham Lincoln, allowed states to found or aid in the maintenance of colleges where the leading objectives are branches of learning related to Agriculture, Mechanic Arts, and Military Tactics. Following, the State of Indiana accepted from John Purdue and other citizens of Tippecanoe County donations to the amount of \$230,000 as well as land for the campus. On May 6, 1869 the Indiana Legislature voted that the university was to be located permanently in Tippecanoe County and that it be named Purdue University. Trustees opened the school in 1874. At the time of installation of Indiana Gamma Omicron in 1904 the student body of Purdue University numbered 1,200 and was composed almost entirely of men. Fraternities made their appearance as early as 1875 when a chapter of Sigma Chi was established. The first local chapter of a national fraternity was followed by chapters of Kappa Sigma, Sigma Nu, Phi Delta Theta, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Phi Kappa Psi, Phi Gamma Delta, and Beta Theta Pi, making a total of eight of the strongest national fraternities represented on the campus at the time of the installation of Gamma Omicron. The fraternity men represented about fourteen percent of the total enrollment of the university in 1904.

COMPARABLE GREEK HOUSES AT PURDUE

The May, 1990 Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory for Tippecanoe County identified sixteen potentially historic Greek - related houses in West Lafayette. A number of post - 1945 Greek houses exist; they are not discussed here. Several Greek houses no longer serving in that capacity may have been identified only as private homes or apartments. All sixteen structures seem to date closely within the interwar period, most are from the 1920s. Surveyors gave the two highest ratings to all sixteen, either "notable" or "outstanding." The Alpha Tau Omega House was rated outstanding, despite its replacement windows and addition.

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The ATO House seems to have comparable integrity to most other Greek houses associated with Purdue. Eight of the sixteen houses have sizable additions either to the side or rear of the structure, and most appear to have had replacement windows installed.

Stylistically, ATO is highly similar to many Purdue Greek houses. Most are Tudor Revival, one is Craftsman in style, and one is French Chateausque, yet another is Renaissance Revival in style. All are traditional and domestic in look, though they may dwarf a single family home in scale. The combination of scale, generally high level of detail, and style mark all as Greek houses, no matter the letters they bear.

HISTORY OF THE GAMMA OMICRON CHAPTER

The nucleus of the present Indiana Gamma Omicron Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega appeared on the Purdue campus early in the year of 1902 in the form of a dancing club. This organization, which was known as the Debonair Club, was formed primarily as a social organization and had a membership of about thirty. The friendships that developed among the members of this club led a number of them to believe that closer relations, such as those enjoyed by fraternity men, would be highly desirable. With this end in mind the members at once began the formation of an organization for the purpose of petitioning a national fraternity. The members of the Debonair Club were all quite prominent in school activities and consequently well known on the campus, especially by the fraternity members, who showed a decidedly friendly attitude toward the new organization.

With the close of the summer vacation the members of the Debonair Club returned to school to take up once more the problems of further establishing their new organization. The first problem that presented itself was the acquiring of a home and it was not long before a suitable house was found on Sheetz Street. The club next turned its attention to the study of national fraternities for the purpose of selecting the one that they deemed worthy of petitioning. The committee for the investigation of fraternities was composed of S. B. Lindley and F. E. Morrow. After making a thorough investigation of the standings of the various fraternities these two men selected as the most desirable fraternities: Delta Tau Delta, Delta Upsilon, and Alpha Tau Omega. At the next regular meeting of the club, October 17, 1903, these three fraternities were brought up for discussion and the members decided that Alpha Tau Omega represented more nearly the type of fraternity that they desired to petition and that they would therefore confine their entire efforts to the acquisition of a chapter of this fraternity.

There were at that time two members of Alpha Tau Omega at the university; Professor W. K. Hatt of New York Beta Theta Chapter, a Professor of Applied Mechanics in the School of Engineering, and W. C. Martin of Michigan Beta Omicron Chapter, a student in Electrical Engineering and a member of the class of 1904. The efforts that the club members put forth to interest these two ATO's soon bore fruit and within two weeks the two had given their approval of the club's proposed actions. Both Professor

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Hatt and Mr. Martin were highly pleased with the Debonair Club and its members and they did all that they possibly could to speed up the granting of the chapter. Soon after the Debonair Club had sent in its petition twelve members of the Illinois Gamma Zeta chapter visited. The Debonair Club members did all that was in their power to give these guests the best entertainment and were so successful in their attempt that the Illinois men returned stating that they desired the men of Purdue to be their brothers. The good news was received by the Club members only a few days before the closing of school for the summer and the members left for their vacations knowing that upon their return in the fall they would become members of Alpha Tau Omega.

Indiana Gamma Omicron was installed as a chapter of Alpha Tau Omega on November 25, 1904 by Dr. W. K. Hatt and Mr. Martin, assisted by province chief G. B. King and fourteen men of the Illinois Gamma Zeta chapter. The men who were initiated into ATO at this time were S. B. Lindley, R. J. Teetor, C. S. Smith, J. F. Newman, A. J. Haltom, E. H. Kothe, R. A. Rogers, F. J. Meldram, J. F. Beckman, H. G. Morgan, W. L. Bridges, F. E. Morrow, and O. P. Goss. The initiation ceremonies were followed by a banquet at the Hines Hotel, Brother R. J. Teetor of the new chapter acted as toastmaster. Brother W. C. Martin called the first regular meeting of the new chapter on November 27th for the purpose of electing officers. With the Chapter established the members immediately entered into the activities of the campus and with that came the first setback which the chapter had experience, the burning of the Chapter House on Sunday October 25, 1908. The members were left scrambling for a suitable home.

The rented house, which they occupied after the fire, was found to be far from satisfactory for the needs of a fraternity and the chapter therefore started the collection of funds for the purpose of building a chapter house

In 1906 the Alpha Tau Omega Chapter House Association was incorporated under the laws of Indiana, with a capital stock of \$25,000, and was organized primarily for the purpose of building a house. The Housing Association created a plan that required its members, upon initiation, to sign ten \$10 notes payable to the Association within a certain amount of years from that date. This plan went into effect immediately and every member of the chapter signed the notes. With the money derived from the notes a house and lot was purchased a few years later, but this property also was found undesirable for use as a fraternity house and was later sold.

In 1912 the Association purchased for \$3,465 three lots at the corner of Fourth and Russell Streets, which is now the site of the present chapter house. The present chapter house, referred to as the Maltese Manor, was designed by Brother Robert Frost Daggett, of the Pennsylvania Tau chapter 1895, and erected by Brother Allan V. Stackhouse, of the Gamma Omicron chapter 1910, in the summer of 1920 at the cost of \$28,000. The structure is of a Collegiate Gothic design that features a tower rising from its facade that represents the image of a tower on the fraternity's sacred crest. At the time of building the chapter had referred to some \$3,000 in cash, which left a balance of \$25,000 to be raised.

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Of that amount \$15,000 was borrowed on the first mortgage, \$700 on the second mortgage, and the remaining coming from members of the chapter and personal endorsements of members of the Housing Association.

Over the next 80 years the house has been the home to such noteworthy people as Birch Evan Bayh, initiated 1946, United States Senator who sponsored the 25th and 26th Amendments, Dr. David A. Wolf, initiated 1975, NASA Astronaut and past resident of the MIR Space Station, Len Dawson, NFL quarterback, and G.A. Ross, editor of the *Purdue Exponent* and *Alpha Tau Omega Bugle*.

Alpha Tau Omega looked to have a bright future but unfortunately the rooms of the house were found empty in the Fall of 1994 due to the revoking of its charter by the National Fraternity. The house faced another much larger challenge when an arsonist set the historic mansion ablaze on New Years Day, 1995. The house was almost certainly lost. A group of devoted alumni saved the chapter house and the future of Gamma Omicron by pooling large sums of their personal monies together. The battered structure was completely refurbished and restored in 1995-1996 and opened its door to a new class of ATO's looking to lead the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity into the next millennium.

BACKGROUND OF THE ARCHITECT, ROBERT FROST DAGGETT

Robert Frost Daggett was born on March 8, 1874 in Indianapolis, IN to Robert Platt and Carolina Daggett. He was a graduate of old Indianapolis High School and received his Certificate in Proficiency in Architecture in 1896 from the University of Pennsylvania. Daggett was initiated into the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity in 1895, during his college years in Pennsylvania. At twenty-two years old Daggett was one of only thirty candidates, of 497 applicants, to be admitted into the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, France. Of the thirty candidates, twenty had to be Frenchmen and the other ten could be foreigners. He was the first man from the State of Indiana ever admitted to the school, from which he received a diploma in 1901. Daggett married Lizzett Lothian on October 31, 1900 in Long Island, NY. They lived at 4904 Washington Blvd. Indianapolis, Indiana.

Robert Frost Daggett's father had started his own firm in 1868, called R.P. Daggett, Daggett and Roth, and finally, R.P. Daggett & Co. from 1880 - 1911. R.F. Daggett joined his father's firm in 1901. R.P. died in 1915, leaving Robert Frost Daggett in charge of the office. In 1917, Daggett enlisted, went overseas, and served five months in England as a member of the 472nd Aero Squadron. Later he transferred to the 17th Engineers and was assigned to hospital construction in Base Section 1, serving until February, 1919. He was discharged as a captain of engineers. The Daggetts were an active family, R.F. was a member of the Indianapolis Athletic Club, Oriental Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, and the American Legion.

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The firm designed many distinguished buildings throughout Indiana. Daggett has credit to the design of the Indianapolis Athletic Club, Indiana University's Commerce Hall (1922), Men's Gymnasium (1917), and Biology Hall (1910), and Purdue University's Agricultural Hall (1902) and the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity house (designed 1916, built 1920).

The Purdue Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity house is a good example of Tudor Revival architecture, similar to Butler University's Jordan Memorial Hall (1928), which Daggett also designed. The Daggett firm was known for its traditional designs during this time period. Alpha Tau Omega is an example of their smaller works, in scale between the residential commissions they received and the larger educational structures planned by Daggett and his office. In this case, the Daggett firm's long time connection to Purdue and the fraternity likely brought the commission.

The Daggett architectural firm operated under several different names over the century. When F. Harold Naegele joined the firm around 1948 the name changed from Robert Frost Daggett and Associates to Daggett, Naegele and Daggett, and finally to Daggett, Naegele and Associates. Some of the firms collective buildings include the original Lilly laboratory, Park Theater, Long Hospital, Riley Children's Hospital, City Trust Building, Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, Otis Elevator Plant, Indianapolis High School, Westlane Junior High School, and several other public schools in Indianapolis and its surrounding area. The firm was dissolved when the younger Robert Frost Daggett Jr. retired in 1977 and its files can now be found in the Indiana Historical Society Library, and the Ball State University Architectural Library.

Robert Frost Daggett died a very distinguished man on September 6, 1955 and is buried at the Crown Hill Cemetery, Lot 233 in Indianapolis.

Bibliography

Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, ATO Palm, The. February, 1929.

Campbell, Tom, "Oldest Ag Building gets New Life." Purdue Agriculture Connections. Vol 9, No 3, Fall 2000.

Cooperider, Jay, "Landmark Agriculture Building to be Restored." Purdue Perspective
<http://www.purdue.edu/PER/S00Perspective.Entomology.html>, Summer 2000.

Daggett Architectural Firm Records, 1869-1977, M576 OMB 49. Architectural Archives, Indiana Historical Society Library, Indianapolis, IN.

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Ferch, Matt, Director of Member Communication, Alpha Tau Omega National Headquarters, Indianapolis, IN.

Hackett, Martin J., University Archives and Records Center, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. Tippecanoe County Interim Report. 1990.

J.C. Allen Photo Collection, Agricultural Administration Building, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.

Rutzen, Brian, Thomas Arkle Clark Graduate Assistant for the Alpha Tau Omega National Fraternity Archives, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL.

Seager, Andrew R., Director of Drawings and Documents Archive, College of Architecture and Planning, Ball State University, Muncie, IN. (interview)

Seager, Andrew R., compiler. "History of the Daggett Firm," Unpublished manuscript, College of Architecture and Planning, Ball State University, Muncie, IN., June 11, 1989.

Verbal Boundary Description

The single structure sits on a rectangular lot roughly 150ft. by 100ft located in the northwest quarter of section 19, Fairfield Township, in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. The property consists of Lots 29, 30 and 31 and has a key# of 164-01800-0300. The northwest corner of the property is located at the corner of 4th and Russell Streets, with 4th Street running along the property's north boundary and Russell Street along the west boundary.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes only the house itself plus parking for 28 of its members. The property makes up one quarter of the block, which includes Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity to the south, Delta Gamma Sorority to the southeast, and Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority to the east (which is also a historically noted structure). The block itself is surrounded by other greek-letter organizations and numerous rental homes owned by the Purdue University Research Foundation.

Alpha Tau
Omega
Fraternity
UTM:
500900
4475000

