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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 East College of DePauw University

AND/OR COMMON

East College of Indiana Asbury University

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

300 Simpson Street

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Greencastle

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7th

STATE

Indiana

CODE

18

COUNTY

Putnam

CODE

133

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

### CATEGORY

\_\_\_ DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

\_\_\_ STRUCTURE

\_\_\_ SITE

\_\_\_ OBJECT

### OWNERSHIP

\_\_\_ PUBLIC

PRIVATE

\_\_\_ BOTH

### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

\_\_\_ IN PROCESS

\_\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

### 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:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Board of Trustees DePauw University

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Greencastle

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Recorder of Putnam County  
Deed & Record Book F. Page 181

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Greencastle

STATE

Indiana

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Indiana Historic Sites Survey

DATE

December 1972

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Department of Natural Resources  
State Office Bldg.

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

STATE

Indianapolis

**CONDITION**

EXCELLENT       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD             RUINS  
 FAIR              UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present exterior physical appearance of East College has not been changed from the original except for the addition of fire escapes on the south, east and west sides and for the planting and growth of carefully distributed trees.

The building is a combination of features of several architectural styles and is the only building situated on a spacious, four-acre lot of the DePauw University Campus. The plans for East College offered by J.A. Vrydagh of Terre Haute, Indiana, were accepted by the trustees of Indiana Asbury University in 1868. Contracts for the excavation of the basement and the laying of the foundation were assigned in 1869 and 1870, respectively. The cornerstone was laid in 1870. Although the building was dedicated in 1877, it was not completed until 1882 when Meharry Hall and the basement (first floor) were finished. The construction delays had been caused by financial difficulties.

East College is red brick except for the first (basement) story, the horizontal moldings, the chimneys, the door and window moldings and entrance steps and porches, all of which are stone. The north entrance porch is an artistic blend of Gothic arch and column design. The modified Corinthian column capitals display skillfully planned letters "A" in the carving. These letters are assumed to denote "Asbury".

There are four impressive entrance doors, one on each side of the building. Each door is ornamented with a Gothic arch design. The first and second story windows are rectangular except for the second story bay which has three Gothic-arched windows. The top of the bay forms a balcony for the windows above. Two-story-height windows, both Gothic and rectangular, unite the third and fourth stories on all sides of the building. Accenting the window pattern on each face of East College are four gables surmounted by false chimneys. The east and west gables have the letter "A" as part of the molding.

The slate-shingled Mansard roof has three flat copper decks, the largest of which is over Meharry Hall. These decks are enclosed with low metal-over-wood sheathing walls having ornamental iron balustrades. Chimneys, although no longer used, continue to be an interesting feature of the overall appearance. Also visible at the roof and blending with the general design are circular ventilators.

East College has three towers. The square bell tower has a pyramidal upper section that displays a face of the clock on each of its four scalloped-shingled sides. The clock activates the bell to ring hourly, but the bell must be rung by hand to announce class sessions. The clock and bell had been installed by 1881. The observatory tower is a domed structure having eight vertical sides resembling windows and doors. There is a globe at the extreme top and the entire tower has been painted gray. This tower was not used for the purpose for which it had been built because smoke from surrounding chimneys made the location a poor one for an observatory. The smaller third tower above the east entrance door is square with a pyramidal roof having gabled dormers.

The overall appearance of East College is one of quiet dignity, strength, propriety and lack of confusion and clutter. It is a living pioneer from an early education era. The exterior building materials show the superficial effects of time and weather, but, structurally, the building is still well-preserved and functional, and it is still being used for the purpose for which it was built.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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The interior physical appearance of East College has been altered to meet present functional and educational needs, but the original structure remains intact. The building is now in the planning stages for restoration, renovation, preservation and full utilization. Although educational requirements have so changed that the interior must be modified to meet these requirements, the modification can be achieved without destroying architectural detail.

Classrooms and offices were originally planned for each floor. Some of these rooms were quite large with ceilings ranging in height from ten feet in the basement (first floor), sixteen feet on the second floor and twelve feet on the third and fourth floors. The floors were either tiled or carpeted; the walls were papered in carefully chosen colors and patterns. Some of the ceilings were frescoed with scenes depicting the four seasons. Wooden shutters hung inside the windows, and some of these shutters are still hanging. Lighting was provided by lamps and ornate chandeliers.

One of the basement rooms was allocated as a furnace room because steam heat was planned from the beginning for East College. The age of the various radiators throughout the building has not been determined.

The second floor corridor has high Gothic-arched windows leading into the classrooms; these windows may have been planned originally for ventilation. The original floors and stairs are still in use. The only fireplace in the building is marble and is located on the third floor in a classroom that was once a part of the college president's quarters. The fireplace is not used.

Meharry Hall with the stage, rows of seating, balcony and upper auditorium dominates the third and fourth floors. The stage has been enlarged to accommodate the activities of an increasing enrollment. The original balcony extended completely across the north side of the Hall, but the organ installation in 1914 necessitated removing the center section and limiting the balcony to two sections, one on the east and one on the west. Although the organ console has been removed, the pipes still remain.

The woods used in the construction include oak, sycamore, ash, pine and poplar. Their richness is visible in the lustrous finish of ornate door and window framing, bannisters and newel posts, but the sturdy floors and steps are worn with many, many footsteps.

Much of East College was completed as donations arrived. In gratitude for the donations, the trustees placed the names of the donors upon doors and in corridors. Many of the names are still present.

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Serving as early members of the Asbury Board of Trustees were Judge A. C. Downey, state supreme court; Henry S. Lane, governor and U.S. Senator; Governor Joseph A. Wright and Clem Studebaker of the famous South Bend carriage works.

A popular teacher, voluminous writer and outstanding lecturer of Asbury was the historian, John Clark Ridpath. He assumed many responsibilities in the East College Building Project and was interested in the progress of women students, who were first admitted to the University in 1867.

Foreign students were first recorded in 1874 with the attendance of three students from Brazil. Among the first Japanese students to be admitted to Asbury in 1877 were Sutemi Chinda and Aimaro Sato. Supporting themselves, they advanced from their attic quarters in West College to the Imperial Court in Tokyo.

Several Asbury alumni became state governors. Among them were Albert G. Porter (graduate of 1843), Indiana (later Minister to Italy); Newton Booth (1846), California; Thomas W. Bennett (1855), Idaho; Henry A. Buchtel (1872), Colorado and Samuel H. Elrod (1882), South Dakota.

James Harlan (1845) became a U.S. Senator from Iowa, advisor to President Lincoln, Secretary of the Interior at the end of the Lincoln administration and father-in-law of Robert Todd Lincoln upon the marriage of his daughter to the President's son. Roy O. West (1890) also served as Secretary of the Interior at the end of the Coolidge administration.

The brilliant orator, Senator Albert J. Beveridge graduated in 1885, and Charles A. Beard (1898) was one of the few men honored by being elected to the presidency of both the American Historical Association and the American Political Science Association.

Other alumni include Percy S. Julian (1920) head of Julian Laboratories, Inc., and renowned for his chemical research; David E. Lilienthal (1920) who has held probably the most important governmental positions ever held by an Asbury/DePauw alumnus; Howard C. Peterson (1930), Joseph W. Barr (1939) and John McNaughton (1942) all of whom have been named to important administrative positions in Washington. Large number of DePauw graduates, including women, have served in the legislatures of Indiana and other states.

Since 1840, famous persons had been summoned to their college classes by the clock and bell of old West College; since 1881 they have been summoned by the successor to the original, the clock and bell of East College.



1. "DePaw Through the Years" Vol. 1 & Vol 2 / George B. Manhart
2. "Indiana Asbury University-DePaw University" / Irving F. Brown
3. "Joint Board of Trustees and Visitors Minutes" 1837-1879
4. Photograph File - DePaw University Archives

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 4

UTM REFERENCES

A	16	51181710	43876110	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mr. Robert D. Gaston, Director Physical Plant

ORGANIZATION

DePaw University

DATE

6/30/75

STREET & NUMBER

5 Larrabee Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Greencastle

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

TITLE

*[Handwritten Signature]*

S.H.P.O.

DATE

7/11-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER