

QUESTIONS? Call or email us!

Town of Chapel Hill Office of Planning and Sustainability

Development Services919-969-5066 planning@townofchapelhill.org

Project: 19-068			
Permit:			
	STAFF REVIEW		
X Application complete and accepted			
	ion not complete and ith a notation of deficiencies		
Any	/a Grahn,		
6.1	0.19		
	Permit: XApplicat Applicat returned w BY:		

Instructions: Submit one paper copy and a digital copy of all application materials collated in one file (pdf preferred)

Deadlines: Applications are due by the close of business 30 calendar days prior to the scheduled meeting date.

Note:Only complete applications may be accepted for Certificate of Appropriateness review. Applications that are not complete will be returned with a notation of deficiencies.



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A: Property Information					
Property Address:	114 S Columbia St (Beta	Theta Pi House)	Parcel ID Number: 9788-36-3774		
Property Owner(s):	Wooglin Foundation, In	nc.	Email:		
Property Owner Addre	ss: P.O. Box 3990				
City: Chapel Hill	State: NC	Zip: 27514	Phone:		
Historic District: XCame	eron-McCauley □Franklin-R	osemary \square Gimghou	oul Zoning District: OI-1		
B: Applicant Informa	tion				
Applicant: Tate Hamlet	ŀ		Role (owner, Property Manager architect, other):		
Address (if different fro	om above): c/o 114 S Colum	bia Street			
City: Chapel Hill	State	: NC Zip:	27514		
Email: thamlet@bellso	uth.net		Phone: 919-414- 1781		
C. Application Type (check all boxes that apply	<i>(</i>)			
		•	ions, and do not involve additions or removals that could Design Guidelines (p. 69) for a list of minor works.		
☐ Historic District Commission Review Includes all exterior changes to structures and features other than minor works					
XSite-work only (walky	vays, fencing, walls, etc.)	☐After-the-fact a	application (for unauthorized work already performed).		
☐ Restoration or altera	ation	☐ Demolition or m	moving of a site feature.		
☐ New construction or	additions	☐ Request for revi	view of new application after previous denial		
□Sign					

D. Basic information about size, scale, and lot placement.

Provide measurements in feet and square feet where applicable. Where possible, please provide accurate measurements from a licensed surveyor, architect, engineer, etc. If exact measurements are not available, please provide estimated information. Current estimated information about lots and buildings can be found on the Orange County Real Estate Data website. Information about lot placement can be found on the Chapel Hill and Orange portals.

Zoning District:	Minimum setbacks	Maximum heights	Lot size



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	Street	Interior	Solar	Primary	Secondary		
Required by zoning	24'	8'	11'	29'	60'		
Proposed	24'	8'	11'	29'	60'		
	Existing	Change +/-	Total	Total Flo	or Area Ratio		
Floor Area (main structure)	n/a	n/a	n/a	Existing	Proposed	ISA/NLA ratio	
Floor Area (all other)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Existing	Proposed
Impervious Surface Area (ISA)					600 sf	23415 sf	24015 sf
New Land Disturbance			1800 sf				

E: Applicable Design Guidelines

The Town's <u>Design Guidelines for the Chapel Hill Historic Districts</u> are integral to the application and review process. These guidelines supplement the required review criteria for Certificate of Appropriateness applications (provided in <u>Section 3.6.2(e)(4)</u> of the Land Use Management Ordinance) by providing detailed, practical considerations for how to make changes to properties while preserving the special character of their Historic District context. Please review the Design Guidelines and consider their applicability to your proposed project. (Attach additional sheets, as necessary.)

Section/Page Topic		Brief description of the applicable aspect of your proposal			
II. / 9	District Setting	Per paragraph 3 of the Guidelines for Settings, the proposed curved stone wall and the stone piers with chains are compatible with the visual and associative characteristics of the Cameron-McCauley Historic District.			
II. / 11	Site Features & Plantings	Per paragraph 8 of the Guidelines for Site Features & Plantings, the proposed wall and piers are appropriate and will not diminish or compromise the overall historic character of the building, site, streetscape, and district.			
I. / 16	Walls & Fences	Per paragraphs 7 and 8 of the Guidelines for Walls & Fences, the proposed wall and piers will be configured and located so as not to compromise the historic character of the building, site, streetscape and district, and will be constructed of compatible materials and at the appropriate scales.			



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F. Checklist of Application Materials					
Attach the required elements in the order indicated.	ATTACHED? TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT		TOWN STAFF		
	YES	N/A	YES	N/A	NO
1. Written description of physical changes proposed. Describe clearly and in detail the physical changes you are proposing to make. Identify the materials to be used (siding, windows, trim, roofing, pavements, decking, fencing, light fixtures, etc.), specify their dimensions, and provide names of manufacturers, model numbers, and specifications where applicable.					
2. History, context, and character information. Please include a summary of what information you have relied on to understand the relevant character and history of the district and subject property—and briefly summarize that information. At a minimum, include:					
 Current property information for the lot and all structures, including Building Sketches and Building Details, from <u>Orange County Real Estate</u> <u>Data</u>. 					
☐ The entry of your property on the most recent inventory of historic resources in the relevant National Register for Historic Places filing, available via the NC State Historic Preservation Office website: for McCauley-Cameron see West Chapel Hill , for Franklin-Rosemary see Chapel Hill Historic District , for Gimghoul see Gimqhoul . (If yours is one of the few properties in McCauley-Cameron or Franklin-Rosemary that has not yet been inventoried, please indicate that.)					
3. Justification of appropriateness. Attach an annotated statement explaining how					
the proposed change(s) meets the following standards of appropriateness that the Commission considers in making findings of fact indicating the extent to which the application is or is not congruous with the historic aspects of the historic district. If a standard is not applicable, type "not applicable".					
 A. The height of the building in relation to the average height of the nearest adjacent and opposite buildings. 					
B. The setback and placement on lot of the building in relation to the average setback and placement of the nearest adjacent and opposite buildings.					
C. Exterior construction materials, including texture and pattern.					
D. Architectural detailing, such as lintels, cornices, brick bond, and foundation materials.					
E. Roof shapes, forms, and materials.					
F. Proportion, shape, positioning and location, pattern, and size of any elements of fenestration.					
G. General form and proportions of buildings and structures.					
H. Appurtenant fixtures and other features such as lighting.					
I. Structural conditions and soundness.					



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J.	Architectural scale.				
	otographs of existing conditions are required. Minimum image size 4" x 6" as or or or the digital equivalent. Maximum 2 images per page.	\boxtimes			
5. Site	e Plan Set showing existing and proposed conditions. (Min. scale: 1 in. = 20 ft.)				
	Site plans must show the relationships between, and dimensions of, existing and proposed buildings, additions, sidewalks, walls, fences, driveways, and/or other structures on the property, as well as property lines and applicable zoning setbacks.				
	nclude both written and drawn scales and show accurate measurements. You may also use a copy of a survey with surveyor's seal deleted. Revise the copy as needed to show existing conditions and your proposed work.				
	☐Indicate the area of all structural footprints (existing and proposed) in square feet; also, indicate lot size in square feet.				
C d	vation Drawings showing existing structural facades and proposed changes. Drawings should be submitted as 11" x 17" or 8-1/2" x 11" reductions of full-size Irawings. All details should be reasonably legible. Photographs are okay for acades with no changes.		\boxtimes		
□ E	Elevation drawings showing all proposed changes above current grade from front, back, and both sides.				
	Include scale bar, written scale, and label major dimensions (including width of structures and heights from finished grade to fascia/eaves and heights to top of roofs).				
	☐ Label materials to be used (roofing, siding, windows, trim, light fixtures, etc.)				
p 1 ir <u>E</u> <u>C</u>	ormation about context (required for all construction of new structures, proposed impervious surfaces greater than 1500 SF, additions greater than 150 SF, and/or proposed land disturbance greater than 5000 SF.) Detailed information about lots and structures can be found on the Orange County Real istate Data website; information about lot placement can be found on the Chapel Hill and Orange County GIS portals.		\boxtimes		
F	or each of the nearest adjacent and opposite properties, provide:				
	\square The height of each building (if an estimate, indicate that).				
	☐ The setbacks and lots placement of each building (an image from the Town GIS database, including scale, is sufficient).				
	\square The size of each lot (net land area in square feet).				
□т	he size of all buildings on the nearest adjacent and opposite properties, including building footprint areas, Floor Areas (in square feet), and Floor Area Ratios. Provide current figures from Orange County Real Estate Data ; indicate any corrections for accuracy you believe necessary and your basis for doing so.				
	molition/Relocation Information (required only if demolition or relocation of a eature is proposed).		\boxtimes		
	Provide a written description of architectural features, additions,				



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remodeling, and any alterations to the structure(s). Make note of any outbuildings on the site plan of the property.			
□ Provide a history of the structure, giving the construction date and architect or carpenter, briefly noting any significant events, persons and/or families associated with the property. Provide current exterior photographs of the property (4" x 6" as printed or the digital equivalent). If information is unknown, please provide a summary of sources consulted.			
☐ If an argument about structural soundness is being made, attach a signed and sealed report from a professional engineer.			
As necessary, attach a statement explaining how a delay in demolition would cause the property owner to suffer extreme hardship or be permanently deprived of all beneficial use or return from such property by virtue of the delay.			
☐ Provide any records about the structure to be demolished.			
9. Mailing notification fee per <u>Planning & Sustainability Fee Schedule</u> . For a list of addresses, please refer to the Town's <u>Development Notification Tool</u> .			
10. Certificate of Appropriateness fee per Planning & Sustainability Fee Schedule	х		



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G: Applicant signature

I hereby certify that I am authorized to submit this application; that all information is correct to the best of my knowledge, and all work will comply with the State Building Code and all other applicable State and local laws, ordinances, and regulations.

I acknowledge and agree that the Historic District Commission members, Town employees, and Town agents may enter, solely in performance of their official duties and only at reasonable times, upon the applicant's property for examination or survey thereof pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 160A-400.8. However, no member, employee, or agent of the Historic District Commission may enter any private building or structure without the express consent of the owner or occupant thereof.

I understand and agree that an approved Certificate of Appropriateness is valid only for the particular application, plans, specifications and related project details presented to, and approved by, the Historic District Commission. If any of the data contained in this application, any plans or any specifications presented to the Commission are changed or altered for any reason, including, but not limited to, changes or alternations deemed practically necessary during construction, required due to subsequent Town reviews, or otherwise, a new hearing before the Historic District may be required. By signing below, the applicant agrees to notify the Development Services Center of any changes or alternations in the data contained in this application, the approved plans or the approved specifications related to the project that is the subject of this application.

Hearings on Certificate of Appropriateness applications before the Commission are quasi-judicial proceedings. Therefore, Historic District Commission members are not permitted to discuss a pending application with the applicant or other party. By signing below, the applicant agrees to refrain from speaking with or contacting any member of the Historic District Commission about an application outside of the formal evidentiary hearing on the application.

Tate Hamlet		
Applicant (printed name)	Signature	Date
Property Owner	Signature	Date
(if different from above)		



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Certificate of Appropriateness Supplemental Requirements

*In addition to Residential Zoning OR Administrative Zoning Compliance Permit Requirements

Certificate of Appropriateness applications are subject to review and approval by the Historic District Commission as well as by Town staff. For assistance with this application, please contact the Chapel Hill Planning Department.

Please submit *all* **materials listed** <u>on this sheet</u>. The Historic District Commission meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. For confirmation of a meeting date and the placement of your request on the agenda, please call the Planning Department. **Applications are due one month in advance of meeting.**

Application Process:

- 1. Historic District Commission Review of Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) Supplemental materials
- 2. Staff review of Residential / Administrative Zoning Compliance Permit (ZCP) materials

**COA (step 1) and ZCP (step 2) materials may be submitted simultaneously or separately.

Required Application Materials

(In addition to Residential Zoning Compliance Permit or Administrative Zoning Compliance Permit Requirements)

An Electronic copy of each document is required in addition to paper copies.

Provide a single set of the following materials:

X	1.Application Form. Either Residential Zoning Compliance or Administrative Zoning Compliance.							
X	2.Recorded plat or deed verifying property's current ownership							
X	3. Recorded plat of easements, right-of-way, and dedications, if applicable							
X	4. Mailing List of Property Owners, applicable within 100 feet of property boundaries The Town will prepare a formal notice to be mailed to surrounding property owners about the application. You may find it helpful to discuss the proposed changes with your neighbors in person so							
	you can address their concerns both in your planning and presentation.							
X	5. Mailing notification fee. The fee per address can be found on the Planning Department's Fee Schedule .							
X	6. Certificate of Appropriateness fee per Planning Department's Fee Schedule							
X	7. Reduced Site Plan Set (reduced to 8.5" x 11")							
n/a	8. Building Elevations (label building height from top of roof to finished grade line)							
n/a	9. Floor Plan, only if accessory apartment, duplex, or commercial application.							
	•							

(Continued)



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10. Written Description

Describe all proposed changes to the property, list all materials to be used, and address the criteria (listed below) that the Commission uses to determine appropriateness. Presenting your proposal with these criteria in mind will provide a clear basis for the Commission's deliberations.

- The height of the building in relation to the average height of the nearest adjacent and opposite buildings;
- b) The setback and placement of the building on the lot in relation to the average setback and placement of the nearest adjacent and opposite buildings;
- c) The exterior construction materials, including textures and patterns;
- d) The architectural detailing such as lintels, cornices, brick bond, and foundation materials;
- e) The roof shape, form, and materials;
- f) The proportion, shape, location, pattern, and size of any elements of fenestration (windows, doors);
- g) The general form and proportion of the buildings;
- h) The accessory fixture and other features (including lighting fixtures, hardware, awnings, etc.);
- i) The architectural scale in relation to existing structures and surrounding buildings; and
- j) Structural conditions and soundness.

Provide photographs of existing property and elevation drawings of the proposed changes. Depict changes in as much detail as possible, paying special attention to those features which the Commission uses to determine appropriateness. This section of the application allows the Commission to see the current state of the property, to visualize the proposed changes, and to assess the impact. The visual description must include dimensions. For new buildings and major additions, the visual description must include the interior floor plan.

n/a

11. Information Regarding Surrounding Properties

For new construction or large projects, the applicant is required to provide information on:

- The height of the nearest adjacent and opposite buildings;
- The setback and placement of the nearest adjacent and opposite buildings;
- The scale of the nearest adjacent and opposite buildings, including percentage of lot coverage.

n/a

12. **Demolition Information (if applicable)**

Provide a description of architectural features, additions, remodeling, and any alterations to the structure(s). Make note of any outbuildings on the site plan of the property. Provide a history of the structure, giving the construction date and architect or carpenter, briefly noting any significant events, persons, and/or families associate with the property.

114 South Columbia Street: Beta Theta Pi Fraternity House

1. Written Description of Physical Changes Proposed.

The south portion of the front yard of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity House has continually been used for overflow vehicular parking. This practice not only is unsightly and in violation of the Town's regulations regarding front yard parking (limited to 40% only in designated parking areas and not on grass), but is impacting the roots of a mature Red Oak and has worn down the lawn to bare dirt.

In the south portion of the front yard, currently there is a thin metal chain strung along a line of metal bollards, which have been damaged by vehicles and are unsightly and ineffective. We propose to remove these bollards and chain and build a mortared wall, using native Chatham stone, 16" wide, 28" high and 70' long. This wall will extend in a curve from the southeast corner of the front porch of the building to the driveway and will terminate in a 2' square mortared stone pier, 32" high. Fresh gravel to match the existing gravel will be installed between this wall and the driveway. The lawn area will be restored.

Two stone piers of the same dimensions will be constructed east of this new wall next to the entry drive, with an iron chain between them. The intent of the wall, piers and chain is to discourage vehicular parking but allow occasional vehicular access for ease in loading and unloading tents, etc.

Adjacent to the public sidewalk along South Columbia Street, on either side of the brick walkway that leads to the building, we propose to build 5 mortared stone piers (4 to the north of the entry walk and 1 to the south) to match those proposed for the front yard. The piers to the north will be spaced 18' apart and an iron chain will be strung between them. The pier to the south will serve to balance the walkway entry.

Refer to the plans in this application for the locations of these walls and piers, and to the photographs for precedent examples in the Cameron-McCauley Historic District.

2. History, Context, and Character Information.

Beta Theta Pi Fraternity House, a Southern Colonial Revival building, was constructed in 1929, one of a group of fraternity buildings erected during in the 1920s and 1930s along South Columbia Street and Cameron Avenue. The property has always been used by the Beta Theta Pi Chapter, although the chapter's history at UNC-Chapel Hill dates to the 19th century.

The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. See the attached *National Register Nomination* for a more detailed description of its significance and historical background.

3. Justification of Appropriateness.

The proposed wall, piers, and chain are similar in materials, size, and scale to the walls and piers of several surrounding properties, using mortared native Chatham stone and an iron chain. Specifically, the following standards of appropriateness will be met:

- B. The setback and placement on the lot of the building (walls and piers), in relation to the average setback and placement of the nearest adjacent and opposite buildings (walls and piers).
- C. Exterior construction materials, including texture and pattern.
- G. General form and proportions of buildings and structures.
- I. Structural condition and soundness.
- J. Architectural scale.

Existing Conditions in front yard where curved stone wall and piers with chain are proposed









Existing Conditions in Front Yard where curved stone wall and piers with chain is proposed



Existing Conditions along South Columbia Street where stone piers with chain is proposed





Precedents for proposed stone wall with pier, and for piers with chain







Low wall with stone piers at 513 East Franklin Street, one of many such front walkways in the historic districts

Stone retaining wall with piers in front of Hanes Art Center directly across the street from 114 South Columbia Street

Stone piers with chain along Cameron Avenue near the intersection with South Columbia Street

114 S COLUMBIA STREET - SURROUNDING PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN 100'

1	CHAPEL HILL FOUNDATION REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS INC	300 SOUTH BLDG CB#1000 UNC	CHAPEL HILL	NC 27599-1000
2	GRANVILLE TOWERS LLC	300 SOUTH BLDG CB#1000 UNC	CHAPEL HILL	NC 27599-1000
3	CHAPEL HILL FOUNDATION REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS INC	300 SOUTH BLDG CB#1000 UNC	CHAPEL HILL	NC 27599-1000
4	CHAPEL HILL FOUNDATION REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS INC	300 SOUTH BLDG CB#1000 UNC	CHAPEL HILL	NC 27599-1000
5	TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL	405 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR BLVD	CHAPEL HILL	NC 27514
6	TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL	405 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR BLVD	CHAPEL HILL	NC 27514
7	UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH	100 S COLUMBIA ST	CHAPEL HILL	NC 27514
8	PSI HOME ASSOC OF SIGMA NU FRA INC	PO BX 3657	CHAPEL HILL	NC 27514
9	WOOGLIN FOUNDATION INCORPORATED	PO BOX 3390	CHAPEL HILL	NC 27515
10	TAU CHAPTER HOLDING CORP INC	1350 ENVIRON WAY	CHAPEL HILL	NC 27517
11	ALPHA TAU OF SIGMA CHI	603 ABERDEEN DR	CHAPEL HILL	NC 27516
12	UNIVERSITY OF N C	PROPERTY OFFICE UNC	CHAPEL HILL	NC 27599







20140428000068050 DEED **Bk:RB5781 Pg:61** 04/28/2014 01:05:13 PM 1/2

FILED Deborah B. Brooks Register of Deeds, Orange Co,NC Recording Fee: \$26.00 NC Real Estate TX: \$.00





NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL WARRANTY DEED

	·					
Excise Tax: \$ 0.00	Recording Time, Book and Page					
Tax Map No.	Parcel Identifier No. 9788-36-3774 £KB					
Mail after recording to: William T. Hutchins, Jr. Kennon Craver 4011 University Dr., Suite 300, Durham						
This instrument was prepared by: Templeton Law Firm, PLLC						
THIS DEED made this 18 TH day of MARCH, 2014 by and between						
GRANT	OR					
114 South Columbia Street Trust, Inc.						
GRANTEE						
Wooglin Foundation, Incorporated						
Wooglin Foundation, Incorporated						
	1800 EAST BOULEVARD CHARLOTTE, N.C. 28203					
CARROLLO (C., CC						

The designation Grantor and Grantee as used herein shall include said parties, their heirs, successors, and assigns, and shall include singular, plural, masculine, feminine or neuter as required by context.

WITNESSETH, that the Grantor, for a valuable consideration paid by the Grantee, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, has and by these presents does grant, bargain, selland convey unto the Grantee in fee simple, all that certain lot or parcel of land lying and being situated in the City of Chapel Hill, Orange County, North Carolina and more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a stake in the West boundary of the right-of-way of Columbia Street, University Baptist Church's southeast corner, running thence along said West boundary of Columbia Street, South 25° 04' 03" East 169.60 feet to a point; thence running South 64° 44' 08" West 298.00 feet to a point in the line of University Square Subdivision, see Deed Book 246 at 1571, Orange County Registry; thence with the line of University Square Subdivision, North 25° 15' 52" West 168.02 feet to a point, the southwest corner of Town of Chapel Hill described in Deed Book 212 at Page 589; thence with the lines of said Town of Chapel Hill and University Baptist Church, North 64° 25' 57" East 298.59 feet to the point BEGINNING, being part of the property conveyed to A. M. Scales, Trustee for Eta Beta Chapter of Beta

Theta Pi Fraternity as shown by deed recorded in Book 85 at Page 383 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Orange County, North Carolina. See Plat of Survey entitled Beta Theta Pi Fraternity of Wooglin Foundation, Inc., dated December 29, 1987 by Holland Land Surveying, Inc. No. 87-083.

All or a portion of the property hereinabove described was acquired by Grantor by instrument recorded in Book 3106, Page 160, in the Register of Deeds for Orange County, North Carolina.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the aforesaid lot or parcel of land and all privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging to the Grantee in fee simple.

And the Grantor covenants with the Grantee, that Grantor is seized of the premises in fee simple, has the right to convey the same in fee simple, that title is marketable and free and clear of all encumbrances, and that Grantor will warrant and defend the title against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever except for the exceptions hereinafter stated.

Title to the property hereinabove described is subject to the following exceptions:

Easements, restriction and reservations of record and the ad valorem taxes for the year 2014.

No title search was performed nor opinion given by Thomas B. Templeton or the law firm of Templeton Law Firm, PLLC.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Grantor has hereunto set his hand and seal, or if corporate, has caused this instrument to be signed in its corporate name by its duly authorized officer(s), the day and year first above written.

114 South Columbia Street Trust, Inc., Grantor

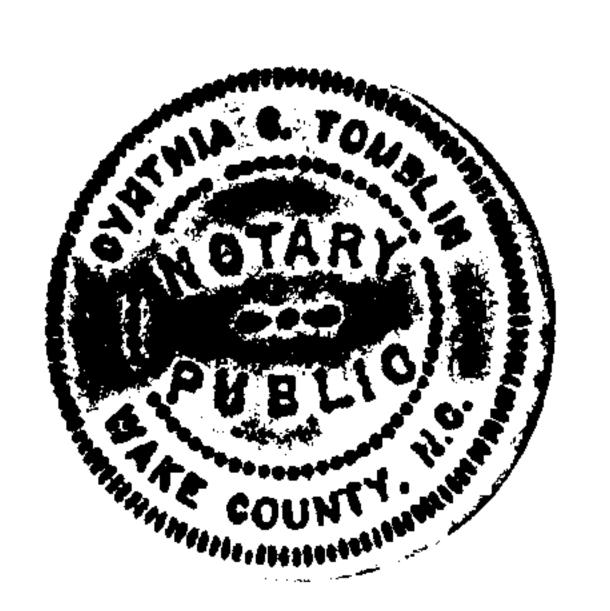
NORTH CAROLINA

MECKLENBURG COUNTY

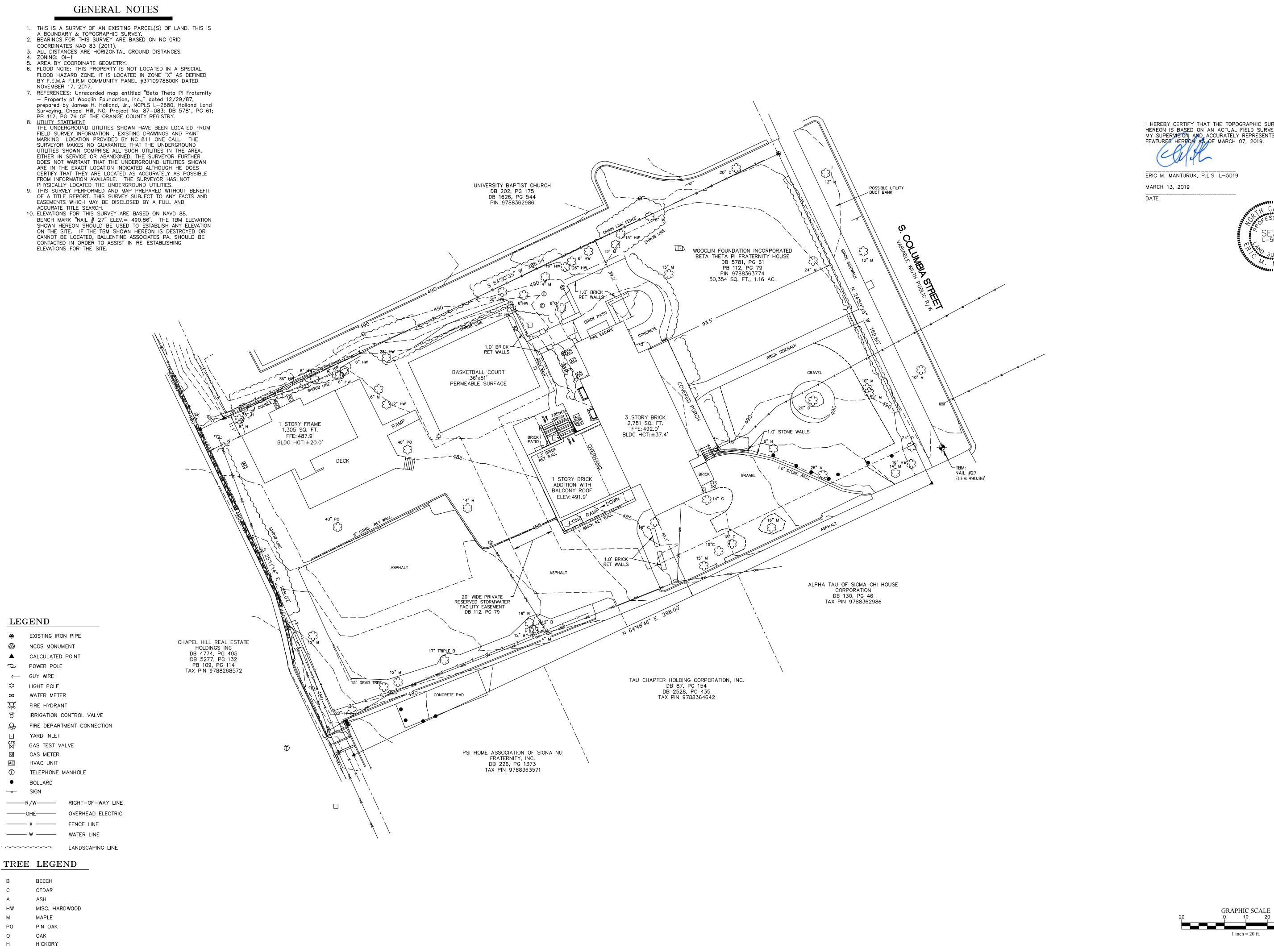
certify that Paul Warren, personally appeared before me this day, and acknowledged to me that he voluntarily signed the foregoing document for the purpose stated therein and in the capacity indicated; as President of 114 South Columbia Street Trust, Inc. Witness my hand and official stamp or seal, this the day of March 2014.

My Commission Expires: 101014

Print Notary Name: Cynthia G. Tonblin



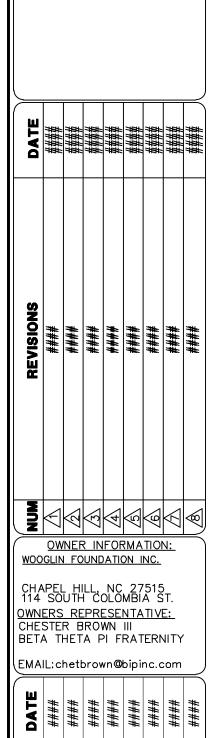




I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY SHOWN HEREON IS BASED ON AN ACTUAL FIELD SURVEY MADE UNDER MY SUPERVISION AND ACCURATELY REPRESENTS THE PHYSICAL FEATURES HEREON AS OF MARCH 07, 2019.



CORPORATE



JOB NUMBER: 118046.00 DATE: 19 FEB 19 SCALE: 1"=20' DRAWN BY: REVIEWED BY:

SHEET

Registration Form

114 South Columbia Street is not listed in the Cameron-McCauley Significance Report (1989), so the NRHP National Register of Historic Places Registration form is being submitted for this application.

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

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ction
F

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.

. Name of Property	
istoric name _Beta Theta Pi Fraternity House ther names/site number _Eta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi	
. Location	
treet & number 114 South Columbia Street not for publication N/A ity or town Chapel Hill vicinity N/A tate North Carolina code NC county Orange code 135 zip code 27514	
. State/Federal Agency Certification	-
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide _X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)	
Signature of certifying official North Carolina Department of Cultural 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 commenting or other official Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
National Park Service Certification	
nereby certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action	
entered in the National RegisterSee continuation sheetdetermined eligible for the National RegisterSee continuation sheetdetermined not eligible for the National Registerremoved from the National Register	
other (explain):	

5. Classification				
Ownership of Property Property (Check as many boxes as apply) _X_ private public-local public-State public-Federal Name of related multiple pr (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of		(Do not include prev Contributing 1 0 0 1	ources within Propertiously listed resources in the Noncontributing 1 0 0 0 1 ibuting resources previces	buildings sites structures objects Total
	a manuple property hanny.	_N/A		
N/A	***************************************			
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) EDUCATION/educatio	n-related housing	Current Function (Enter categories from EDUCATION)		housing
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) Other: Southern Colonia		Materials (Enter categories fro foundation _br roof _ asphalt walls _brick other _wood	ick	

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

Areas of Significance Enter categories from instructions)
Social History Architecture
Period of Significance
Significant Dates
1929
Significant Person Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A
Cultural Affiliation N/A
Architect/Builder Unknown - architect
McAlester, B., builder
or more continuation sheets.)
Primary Location of Additional Data
X_ State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government X_ University Other Jame of repository: University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

10. Geographical Data
Acreage of Property99 acre
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)
1 17 6 75 450 39 75 922 3 Zone Easting Northing 2 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/titleApril Montgomery, Principal
organization Circa, Inc date October 15, 2004
street & number PO Box 28365 telephone 919/834-4757
city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27611
Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:
Continuation Sheets
Continuation Sheets
Continuation Sheets Maps
Continuation Sheets Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
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.
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
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
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)
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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.)

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Beta Theta Pi Fraternity House Orange Co., NC

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Setting:

The Beta Theta Pi Fraternity house is located at 114 South Columbia Street. University Baptist Church and its parking lot are next to the house to the north. Five fraternity houses on Fraternity Court are to the south of the house and separated by a narrow drive that leads to parking for the Beta Theta Pi House as well as those houses on Fraternity Court. Across South Columbia Street to the east are the Ackland Museum of Art and the Hanes Art Center. Farther south and east is the University of North Carolina while the Town of Chapel Hill lies to the north beyond the Baptist Church.

The house enjoys a deep setback from the street, which enables mature trees to adorn the landscape. The house evokes the feeling of a southern mansion centered on a large lot accented by mature plantings. A 1962 frame annex stands at the rear of the property. A boxwood hedge shields the house from South Columbia Street. The adjacent church parking lot is separated from the house lot by a wooden fence. A brick walk leads from the sidewalk to the front entrance of the house.

Beta Theta Pi Fraternity House Exterior:

The Beta Theta Pi Fraternity House is a two-and-one-half-story, five-bay wide brick house with full basement. It is three bays deep. One-bay, lower two-and-one-half-story brick wings capped with gambrel roofs flank the main block. The roof of the main block is a modified side-gable roof. The profile slopes like a gable but instead of meeting at an apex the top flattens out. Full-height Doric columns support the full-width, flat-roof portico. The Greek letters for Beta Theta Pi are centered on the entablature of the portico. A keystone caps a central door surrounded by sidelights and transom. Four sets of wooden French doors open onto the portico. Each set of doors is surmounted by a flat brick arch and keystone. The second floor façade windows are all double-hung six-over-six sash windows with brick flat arches with keystones. The attic story contains five gabled, pedimented dormers with double-hung, six-over-six wood sash windows. The rear elevation of the main block contains identical windows at the first and second stories, and identical dormers in the attic.

The north wing is one-bay-wide, two-and-a-half-stories tall with identical fenestration to the main block. The first story originally contained a recessed porch with round-arched openings. These openings have been infilled with a French door and fanlight on the front, and with sash windows on the side and rear elevations. Centered at the top of the side elevation is a rectangular-shaped vent.

The south wing, originally one-story, was raised to two-and-one-half stories circa 1962 to mirror the north wing. The first story was originally a porte cochere with round-arched openings. The front, side and rear openings are now infilled with French doors with blind fanlights. The second

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story has a central one-over-one double-hung window flanked by two, six-over-six, double-hung windows, with flat brick arches and keystones. A metal fire escape is attached to the wall below the central window. Two double-hung, six-over-six windows with flat arches and keystones mark the third floor. The west window allows access to the third floor fire escape. Also evident on the first story of the south side elevation of the main block, east of the wing and next to the portico is a stair leading to another basement door. The door has nine panels and is set in a deeply recessed frame. A metal grate has replaced the central panel.

The rear or west elevation has the same form as the front minus the porch. The first story has a central door reached by a narrow stair with metal balustrade and handrail. The door was originally a French door that was replaced with a security door. The basement level is visible from the rear and is marked on the main block by a pair of double-hung one-over-one windows. Just south of the entrance stair is a stair leading to the half-glazed kitchen door. A one-story flat-roofed wing projects from the south end of the rear. This wing houses the basement dining area. It has six-over-six and one-over-one double-hung windows with flat brick arches with keystones. An infilled door is adjacent to the kitchen door. A brick wall extends south from the southwest corner of the rear wing to the parking area.

Beta Theta Pi Fraternity House Interior:

The front entrance to the house opens into a center hall. The hall continues though the house to the rear entrance. The living room is located to the right of the main hall. The focal point of this room is the wood fireplace mantel with paneled pilasters supporting the shelf and a central panel adorning the entablature. Cased openings flank the central fireplace and lead to the former porch. The porch was enclosed in the 1960s. The original arched openings are now filled with arched windows and French doors. The original brick walls have been covered with sheetrock but the original quarry tile remains as the flooring for the room. The south wall, which backs up to the living room fireplace, is still exposed brick. Just left of the hall is the trophy room. A simple wood mantel marks the fireplace on the south side of this room. Reeded pilasters support the mantelshelf, which is adorned underneath by a Greek Key. The center plaque is in honor of a fallen brother and reads,

Milton Stanley Storm, Jr. Dec. 15, 1932-Sept. 19, 1953

Plain slate faces the firebox surround. Two niches flank the fireplace. Wood floors with wooden baseboards finish the rooms on the floor. An arched opening marks the center of the hall and the intersection with the stair hall to the south. The stair was replaced in 1962 and consists of metal balusters, a wide wooden handrail, and wooden treads. The stairs lead to the basement below and the rooms above. The first floor of the south wing, enclosed in 1962, is a television room.

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The basement houses a chapter room, dining room, kitchen, and storage area. The chapter room is a large room in the northeast area of the main block. A narrow hall leads to the dining hall, kitchen, and additional storage. The dining hall has ceramic tile floor, acoustical tile ceiling, three sheetrock walls and one paneled wall. The kitchen has the same ceramic tile floor as the dining room. The dropped ceiling also continues in the kitchen. An opening marked by an ogee arch leads to a bathroom in the basement.

The second and third floors are very similar in layout. They both consist of a single long hall stretching from one end of the house to the other (north to south) with a series of doors. Each door leads to a dormitory room. There are eleven dormitory rooms and one bathroom on the second floor. The third floor contains one study room, one bathroom, and ten dormitory rooms. Most of the original materials have been replaced on the second and third floors. The ceilings have been dropped and covered with acoustical tiles to cover the sprinkler system. [In May of 1996 a tragic fire claimed several lives at the Phi Gamma Delta house. This tragedy caused the University and the Greek community to become more involved with fire and safety. The 1996 Chancellor's Committee on Greek Affairs Fire Safety Task Force released a report suggesting that sprinkler systems and alarms be required in all Fraternity and Sorority Houses.] Beta Theta Pi was the first fraternity to install a sprinkler system following this tragedy (Campaign). Although the hall ceilings have been dropped to cover the sprinkler system, the original ceiling height has been maintained at the both ends of the second floor hall.

Although some of the original materials have been replaced or covered, the Beta Theta Pi house maintains its original room configuration and is true to its original floor plan. Except for the replacement stair, the 1962 additions have not taken away from the integrity of the building. Furthermore, it can be argued that the 1962 stair is representative of its time and required by building code. The enclosure of the porch and porte cochere are sympathetic alterations that are easily interpreted. The addition of the second and third floors to the porte cochere are also easily identified and by matching the north wing have maintained the character of the building.

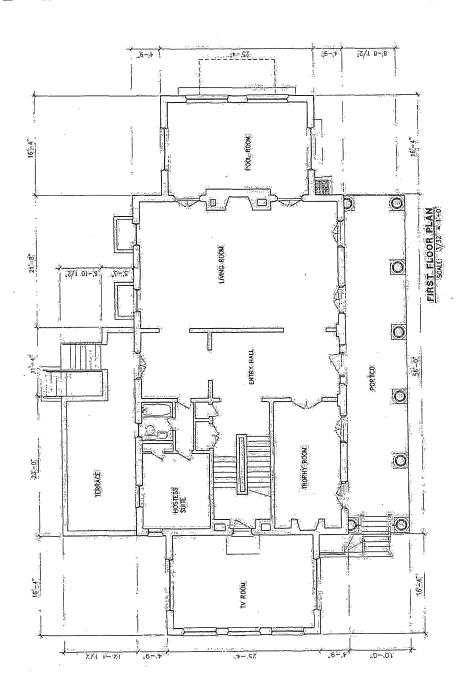
Non-contributing Annex. 1962.

A noncontributing annex is located behind the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity House. This was constructed in 1962 as a social hall. It is a wood frame building with board-and-batten siding and a gable roof, executed in a modern style with a wooden handicap ramp leading to the entrance. A large frame deck wraps around two sides.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary:

The Beta Theta Pi Fraternity House, 114 Columbia Street, in Chapel Hill, is a large two-and-one-half-story brick building constructed in 1929 in the Southern Colonial Revival style. It looks east toward the university campus across a deep front lawn, with a full portico lined with French doors across its façade. Containing twenty-one bedrooms, meeting rooms, parlors, kitchen, dining room, and lounges, the house was built by B. McAlester, from Columbia, Missouri. The Beta Theta Pi House meets Criterion C for its architectural significance as one of the best examples of the Southern Colonial Revival-style fraternity houses at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill campus. It also meets Criterion A for its significance in social history as the home of the Eta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi at the university. Founded in 1852, it is one of the oldest fraternities on campus, and has played a distinguished role in Greek life at the university. The house, carefully renovated to preserve its historic architectural integrity, is significant from its construction in 1929 to 1954, the last year in which it met the fifty-year criterion of eligibility.

Historical Background:

Beta Theta Pi and the Eta Chapter

Beta Theta Pi was founded on September 8, 1839 at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. It was the first fraternity founded west of the Allegheny Mountains (Baird, p. I-11). The Eta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi was chartered at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1852, making it the third fraternity chartered on campus (Eta Data, p. 3). The chapter enjoyed early success that was unfortunately short-lived due to the ensuing war and it became inactive in 1859. The University was closed from 1869 to 1875, and did not allow fraternities when it reopened. It would be 1884 before Beta Theta Pi was re-established. Prior to the war, a fraternity known as the Mystical Seven had been the strongest fraternity in the south, however, their numbers declined after the war and the Star of the South chapter at the University of North Carolina [hereafter referred to as UNC-Chapel Hill] was absorbed into the Eta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi. The remaining chapters of the Mystical Seven throughout the south became Beta Theta Pi by 1890 (Eta Data, p 3).

The turn of the century marked a new era for Beta Theta Pi at the University of North Carolina. In 1905, the Eta Chapter built a new house on the edge of campus, on the original Fraternity Row. The addition of a house for its members led to new success for the Eta Chapter. This success lasted until the dawn of World War I when again most Eta members left to serve their country. Henry Rankin was the only member of Beta Theta Pi to return to campus in the fall of 1921. By the end of the year the total number at the Eta Chapter was nine (Eta Data 1960, p. 3).

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War wasn't the only force to impact fraternity life at Chapel Hill in the first quarter of the twentieth century. The 1915 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for Chapel Hill depicts the original fraternity row on the university campus. It consisted of ten houses forming an "L-shape" around the northwest corner of the library building. On January 9, 1919, fire struck and destroyed three houses, Sigma Nu, S.A.E., and Pi Kappa Phi (Wilson, p. 410). The fire threatened but did not damage other adjacent fraternity and university buildings, including the library.

After the fire, the university thought it would be best to relocate the fraternities off campus. As many of the fraternities were outgrowing their houses, the relocation would allow them to build large houses for their members. Therefore, they agreed to a land swap. This also allowed the fraternities that had lost their homes to the fire an opportunity to acquire new housing.

The Betas were also participants in this movement. The May 28, 1925 edition of the *Chapel Hill Weekly* reported, "The heirs of the late George Pickard have sold the house and lot on Columbia Street to the Beta Theta Pi fraternity for \$25,000." The article explained that the fraternity would take possession of the property on September 15 and would move the existing house, shown on the 1925 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map as a two-story, side-gable, structure with full-width porch, flanking wings, and central rear ell. The *Chapel Hill Weekly* continued to follow the story in the September 25, 1925 edition under "Beta Builds in Spring." The article explained that the chapter had sold its house on Fraternity Row to Delta Sigma Pi, and moved twenty members into the Pickard House temporarily. In the spring of 1926 the chapter planned to move the house to the rear of the lot and to divide it into three smaller rental units. Then the new fraternity house, costing around \$50,000, will be built on the site of the Pickard House.

The architect of the house is not known. Original blueprints for the structure, dated May 17, 1929 identify the builder as B. McAlester from Columbia, Missouri. No other work in Chapel Hill by this builder is known. It is suspected that he developed stock plans for the national chapter of Beta Theta Pi and the Eta Chapter house is based on one of those designs.

The fraternity moved into the new house in 1929. It accommodated over thirty members (Barber, p. 650). The 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows the new Beta Theta Pi House sited in the center of the lot. Behind it appears to be the main block of the Pickard house at the southwest corner of the lot. The two wings appear to have been separated as planned and are located behind the Pickard House on the northwest corner of the lot.

The financial obligations associated with the new house meant the chapter would have to grow in membership to increase income. The fraternity met the challenge until World War II. During the war the University was used as a Naval Training Center. Many of the fraternity houses, including the Beta House, were used as quarters for midshipmen (Barber, p. 650). This impeded the fraternity's ability to grow during the war.

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The end of the war marked a period of "unparalleled expansion" at the university and fraternity levels which continued throughout the 1950s and into the 1960s (Eta Data, p. 3). The Vietnam era strained the strength of the fraternity but it maintained a moderate membership. In the 1980s and 1990s the enrollment of men at Chapel Hill was proportionately less than it had been in previous years. This had a direct effect on fraternity membership across campus. With this decline in membership came a decline in the maintenance of the house. In the mid-1990s the alumni organized a capital campaign to renovate the house. Renovations began in 1997 to update the house to meet current code and fire requirements. The renovation architect is Arthur Cogswell Jr., a Chapel Hill architect and Beta alumnus. The fraternity has gone to great lengths to ensure the preservation of the original form and plan as well as, where possible, the preservation of original materials to maintain the building's overall architectural integrity. With the renovation almost complete, the Eta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi can look forward to another seventy years in the house at 114 South Columbia Street.

Historical Context: Greek Letter Societies in Higher Education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

During the first fifty years of the University of North Carolina, the primary student organizations were the Dialectic (Di) and Philanthropic (Phi) Societies, which were primarily literary and debating societies. They grew so popular that they disallowed Juniors and Seniors in order to provide space for new members. These older students met in new, secret clubs, including the first order of Kappa Alpha, founded in 1812 (Coates, 121; Baird, I-10). The university came out against the proliferation of these secret societies (as opposed to the Di and Phi, which it supported), and in 1842, in reaction to an attempt to charter a chapter of the Mystical Seven fraternity, the trustees ordered the university to ban fraternities and demand a pledge from students that they would not connect themselves to any secret society (Johnson, 129).

Despite the trustees' opposition, secret clubs began to form in the 1850s. The Beta chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon took its charter in April 1851, followed by the Epsilon chapter of Phi Gamma Delta in fall of that year and the Eta chapter of Beta Theta Pi in early 1852 (Johnson, 130). By 1860 there were ten to fifteen chapters of national fraternities on campus, but with the Civil War and the later closing of campus, the chapters disbanded or moved to other universities (Coates and Coates, 122). When the university reopened in 1875, the trustees recommended against granting permits to fraternities. Again, the societies met in secret, often off campus. Charters were reinstated for Phi Kappa Sigma in 1877, Alpha Tau Omega in 1879, and Kappa Alpha in 1881(Johnson, 141-143). In 1885 the faculty recommended that the administration remove the ban on fraternities, and the trustees reluctantly gave in, on condition that societies "provide the Faculty with the names of their members and . . . pledge themselves not to use intoxicating liquors at any banquet given in Chapel Hill." (Coates and Coates, 122)

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Fraternities proliferated throughout the late 1800s, and there were more than a dozen in operation at the turn of the century (Johnson, 142). By this time, social activities on campus were divided primarily along the lines of fraternity membership, which in 1900 stood at 93 members (18%) and 419 nonmembers (82%). Fraternities controlled a number of campus organizations, including the General Athletic Association, which published the campus newspaper, the *Tar Heel*. The *Tar Heel*'s editorial positions were staffed almost exclusively by fraternity members. Fraternities also sponsored the campus yearbook, the *Hellenian*, the predecessor to the slightly less Greek-centered *Yackety Yack*, which replaced it in 1901 (Wilson, 25).

Regardless of their campus prominence, fraternities still faced opposition by the administration. A 1910 report commented on the lower academic standing of fraternity members, whose Juniors' grade point average stood almost one point worse than the non-Greek Junior average, despite the fact that non-fraternity members on average took four more hours of classes a week (Wilson, 66-67).

The political power of fraternity members was apparent in the 1920s. By this time there was an established political "machine" on campus. This "machine" would hand pick individuals to run for specific offices and develop their own slate. This selection activity came to be known as the "frame-up" (Bledsoe, 4.) The role of fraternities was pivotal in the success and influence of this maneuver. As an established group, bringing in a fraternity brought in a block of votes as opposed to obtaining them one at a time. Often, a fraternity's support of the machine's slate could be secured by nominating one of their members to candidacy. Some of the most coveted seats were Student Government, President of the YMCA and Editor of the Yackety Yak. Other groups such as the Dialectic and Debate societies were also considered important enough to "frame-up."

Interestingly, during the first half of the 1920s the Beta controlled a number of the "high-power" positions on campus including president of the Senior Class, president of the Publications Union Board, and editor of the *Yackety Yak* (Bledsoe, 5.) It was the opinion of the other fraternities on campus that the Betas were monopolizing the offices. In order to appease the other fraternities, new offices were created by separating the student council president from class president — these had previously been the same office. While fraternities remained extremely influential after this action, the role of the Betas, individually, was lessened.

In 1928 fraternity domination of campus politics increased. Incoming freshman were allowed to pledge a fraternity within the first weeks of their arrival on campus. Prior to this, students were not allowed to pledge a fraternity until their sophomore year. This gave the fraternities even more leverage in the political system as their were fewer non-fraternal candidates. In the fall of 1928 the fraternity slate swept twenty-eight of the thirty elected positions. This made the frame-

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up, previously suspected but never openly confirmed, undeniable. There was a backlash to the campus political machine, but by all accounts, it continued to exist even after this event.

In the 1920s, membership in the thirty-one national fraternities increased to more than 900 members, approximately 25% of students (*Daily Tar Heel*, Sept. 28, 1929). As their membership and power grew, fraternities also developed a physical presence on campus. Fraternities had been assigned quarters in dormitories. In the mid-1890s, fraternities began to move out of the residence halls, initially renting houses and then building them.

The construction of these houses took considerable investment. Some chapters purchased their own lots, such as Beta Theta Pi, which spent \$25,000 for the George Pickard property. House construction also consumed considerable sums: Kappa Sigma, 1930, \$35,000; Pi Kappa Alpha, 1926, \$35,000; Zeta Psi, 1928, \$40,000; Phi Kappa Sigma, 1927, \$45,000; Chi Psi, 1930, \$50,000. By 1929 a *Daily Tar Heel* article claimed that the real value of fraternity property was around \$500,000 (*Daily Tar Heel*, Sept. 28, 1929). The building boom also had the advantage of easing the housing shortage on campus (Wilson, 411).

This period of fraternity growth and building corresponded to that seen on other North Carolina college campuses. For example, in the late 1920s Davidson College fraternities constructed houses in what is known as Jackson Court. In contrast to UNC, however, the properties continued to be owned, supervised, and controlled by the college (Beaty, 266).

While fraternity chapters continued to develop over the coming decades, membership remained at around 20% of the student population. Today fraternity and sorority members make up 17% of UNC undergraduates. (UNC Greek Affairs) The majority of the older fraternities continue to be located in their 1920s – 1930s chapter houses.

Architectural Context: Fraternity Houses at University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

The Fraternity House is a specific property type combining in both form and purpose the elements of an institutional and residential building. A fraternity house is irrevocably tied to an institution; namely a college or university, and serves, in part, as a meeting place for a large organization. It also serves a residential purpose, just at a larger scale. This duality of purpose and/or use and the resulting scale, form, and style is what places the fraternity house in its own architectural context.

As stated in the historical context, early fraternities did not exist in houses, but were simply organizations associated with a college or university population and, occasionally, housed as a unit within existing campus dormitories. The first movement of fraternities into their own houses occurred at Chapel Hill in the early 1900s with the establishment of the Kappa Alpha House in

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1904. Many other fraternities followed suit, establishing Fraternity Row at the northwest corner of campus near the intersection of Franklin and Columbia Streets. These early houses were similar to private residences, but slightly larger in scale, with the ability to house approximately ten to twelve members. Two of these original houses, the Evergreen House and the Hill Annex, still stand in their original locations but have been used as university buildings since the late 1920s.

As a result of their growing membership and the university's desire to separate them from university buildings, fraternity houses moved off campus in the 1920s and took on an entirely new form. These more substantial structures not only reflected the growing size and prominence of fraternities on campus, but also reflected architectural movements in institutional and residential building occurring across the South. The majority of fraternity houses present on the UNC-CH campus today either date from this period of construction, 1920s – early 1930s, or are later interpretations of these forms.

In the era following the end of World War I the University launched a building plan that combined a Beaux Arts plan with a "renaissance of Southern Colonial at Chapel Hill" (Bishir, 396). University architect Arthur Nash, whose firm Atwood and Nash designed a majority of the buildings during this era, as well as a few fraternity houses, stated that it was at this time that "the University consciously adopted an 'official' style of architecture." (Bishir, 397). Nash's "official" style consisted of substantial, symmetrical "colonial" structures constructed of red brick and adorned with classical elements such as pediments and colossal porticos lined with columns. These structures were equally as impressive in scale as in restraint, the trademark of classical architecture.

The Colonial Revival movement was also prevalent in residential architecture across the state during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. In residential architecture the Colonial Revival movement came in two phases; the first was a direct effect from designs shown during the era of American expositions. Beginning in the late 1800s this phase was more diverse in its combinations of elements and open to interpretations reflective of the designer and local tastes. The second, later phase, dating from the 1920s into the 1930s, was a more restrained and literal form that reflected Georgian and Federal themes derived from the model of Colonial Williamsburg (Bishir 417). One of the most popular forms of residential Colonial Revival in North Carolina was the "Southern Colonial." The principal features of this style were symmetry, a central passage, and a double pile plan with a portico of colossal order, sometimes with one-story porches extending out to the sides (Bishir, 420).

Fraternity houses built during the mid-to-late 1920s on the campus of UNC-CH, and at universities across the South as well, reflect the elements of the "colonial" buildings Nash described. The first house to be completed was Delta Kappa Epsilon in 1923. Houses for

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Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Sigma Chi soon followed. By 1926 the Columbia Street fraternity court had five houses. Beta Theta Pi had purchased the lot to the court's north. In 1927, Zeta Psi, Kappa Alpha, and Kappa Sigma jointly purchased the Patterson property on Cameron Avenue to develop a new fraternity court.

The new chapter houses were considerably more monumental than the old dwellings on fraternity row. Rather than accommodating ten or twelve members, they could house up to forty members and featured elaborate halls and refectories, imposing piazzas, and romantic revival facades. The 1923 Colonial Inn, designed by University architects Atwood and Nash, is a Southern Colonial Revival style building with French doors across the front opening to the monumental portico. At the side is a porte cochere. This hotel was the model for many fraternity houses. Atwood and Nash designed the Pi Kappa Alpha and Zeta Psi houses. Kenneth Ellington, who designed Kappa Alpha and Kappa Sigma, which flank Zeta Psi on the Cameron Avenue fraternity court, consulted with Nash to ensure that the houses on the court complemented one another. The Beta Theta Pi House follows the Carolina Inn model closely. Other large fraternity houses drew on different revival styles. The Chi Psi house on Cameron Avenue (Atwood and Nash, 1929) was designed in the Norman style, and East Franklin Street's Alpha Tau Omega (Courtland Curtis, 1930) was rendered in Tudor Gothic.

What sets the Beta Theta Pi House apart from the other houses constructed during this era is a result of both the circumstances under which the house was built and decisions that have been made in renovating the building in the recent past. The majority of fraternity houses constructed during the 1920s were constructed on Fraternity Courts established by the University as small cul-de-sacs with lots on which fraternities constructed their houses. The Beta Theta Pi House was not constructed on a court, but on a parcel purchased by the fraternity from a private individual. This significantly larger parcel allowed the Betas to construct a house more substantial in scale than those being constructed on the courts. Furthermore, the Beta's larger lot fronted a main street allowing them a deep front lawn and a more prominent location. The result of these factors is a more impressive house that sets itself apart from most other fraternity houses of the period.

Since their construction in the 1920s, fraternity houses have undergone a number of changes. The Beta House, while altered, has remained the most true to its original form and architectural integrity. The exterior is largely unaltered. The only substantial alterations are raising the south wing to the same height as the north wing, and the enclosure of the north porch, done in such a manner that its original form is easily discernable. While the interior has been updated, the original floor plan is intact. The main floor with living rooms and meeting rooms is largely unaltered. The chapter room still houses its original mantel and bookcase. Most other fraternity houses of the period have either been heavily altered with such changes as vinyl window replacements and doors, or have been so neglected that they have fallen into disrepair.

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Beta Theta Pi Fraternity House Orange Co., NC

Boundary Description: The boundary that encompasses the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity House property includes 0.99 acres identified in the Orange County Real Estate records as Pin # 9788.36-3774\7.86.C.6. The address on record is listed as 114 S. Columbia Street.

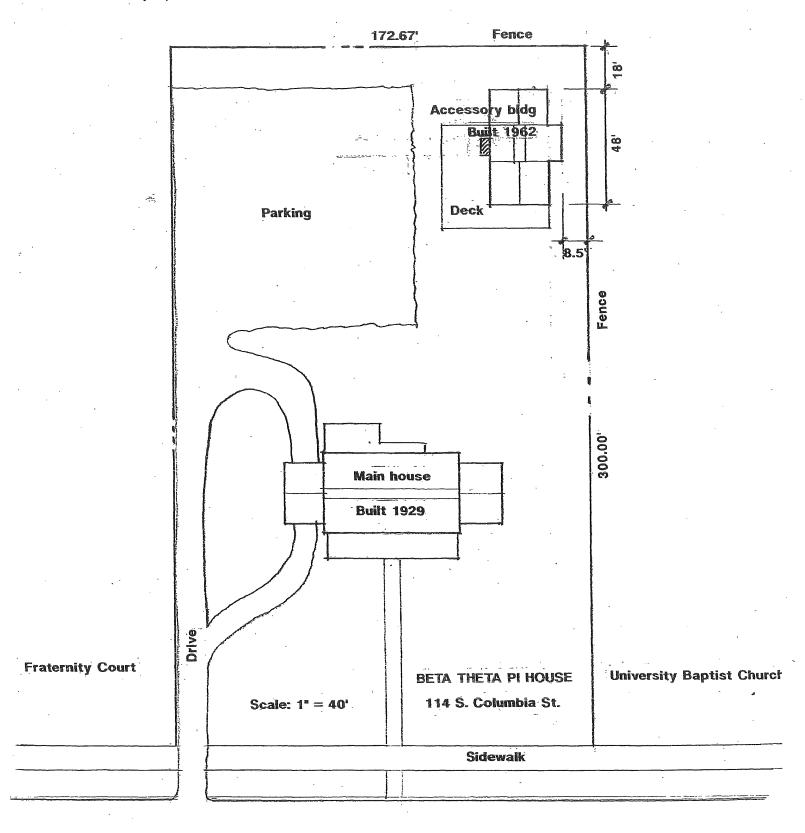
Boundary Justification: The boundary represents the entire parcel associated with the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity House since its construction.

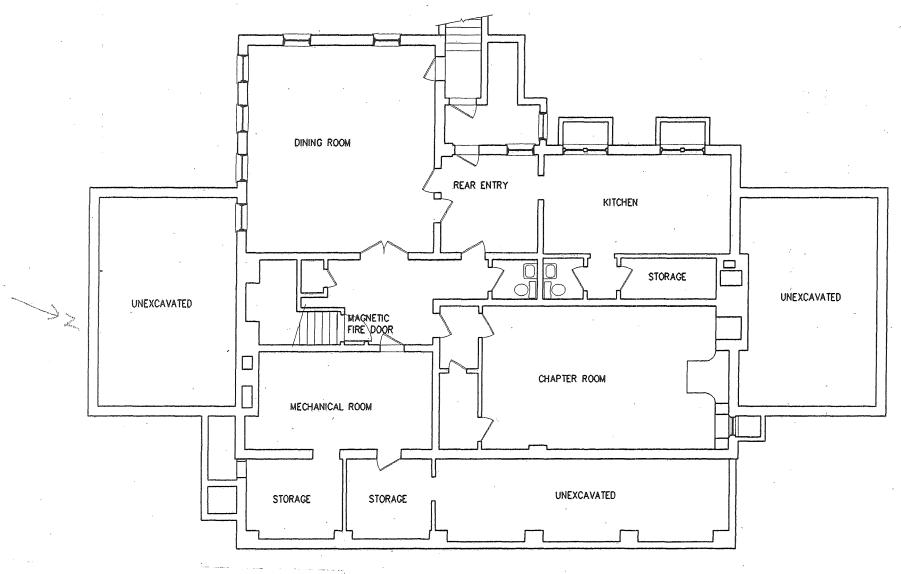
University Square

SITE PLAN



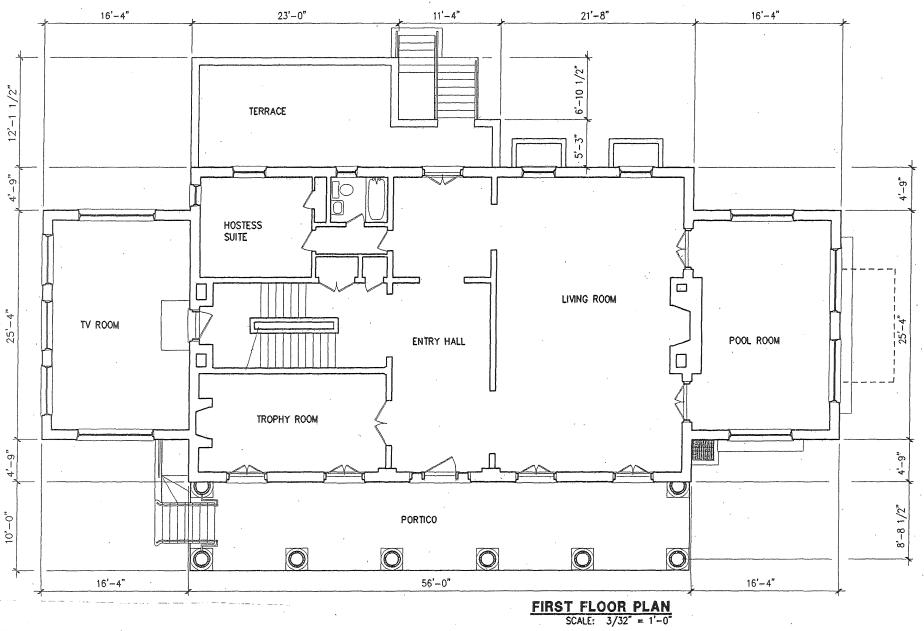
NOTE: All features shown are existing except for proposed vestibule on accessory bldg.



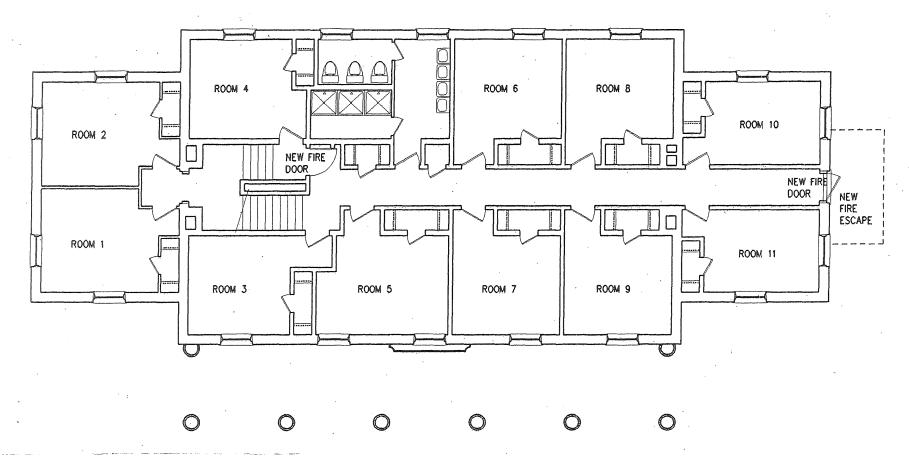


SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"

N

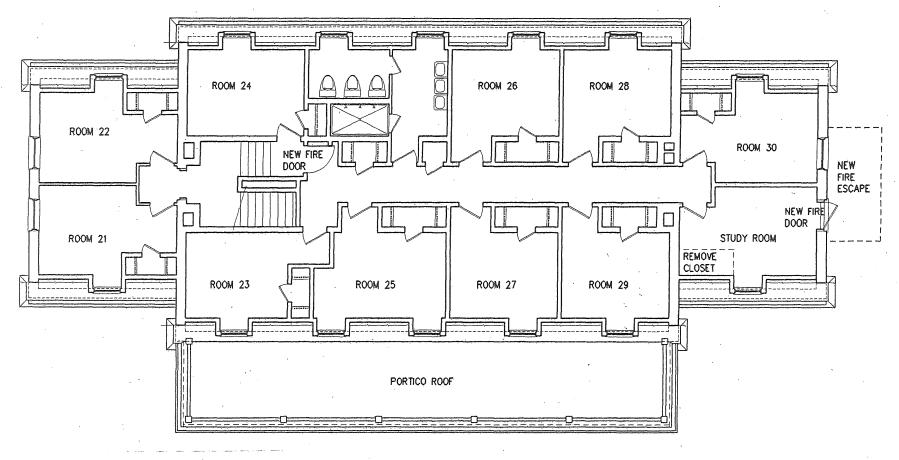






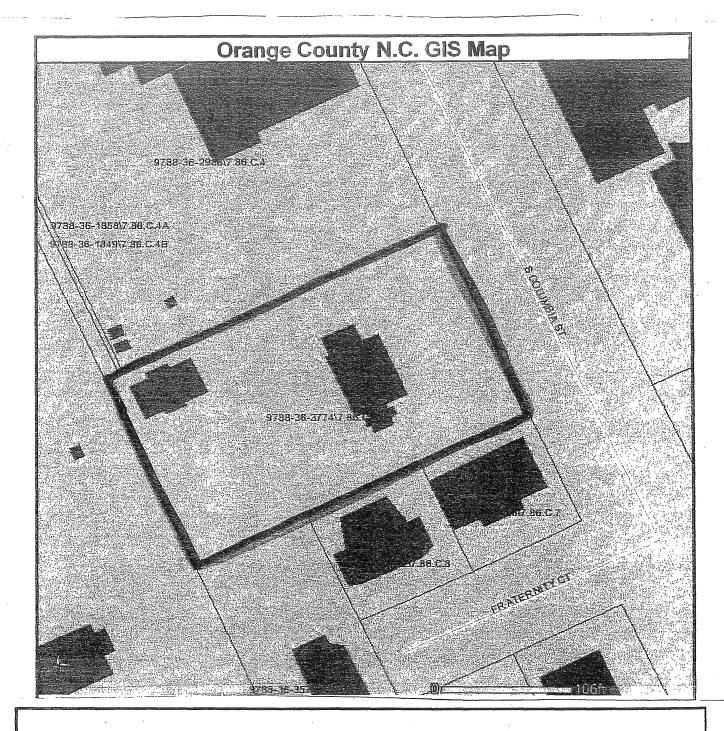
SCALE: 3/32° = 1'-0"





THIRD FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 3/32 = 1'-0'

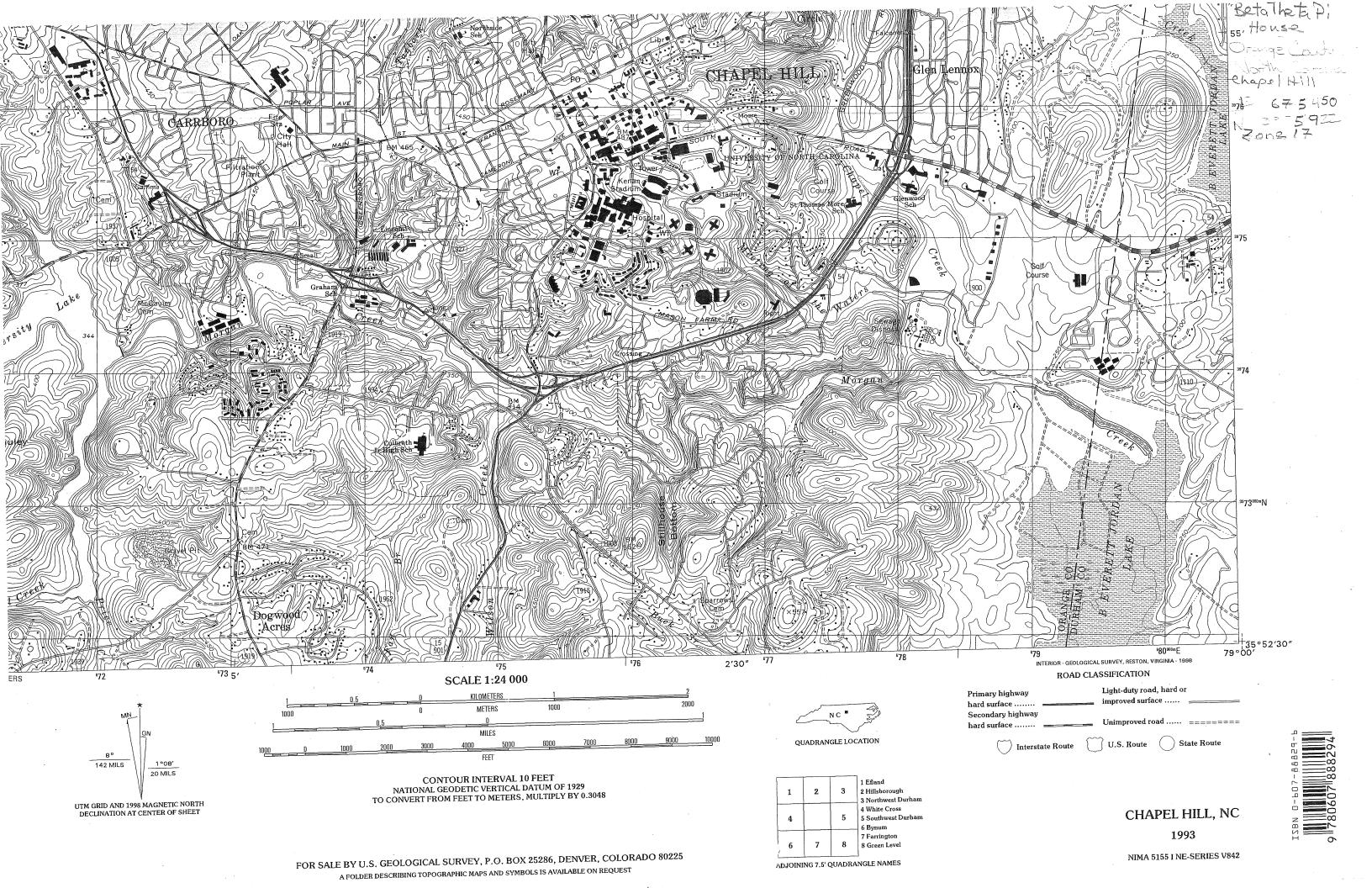




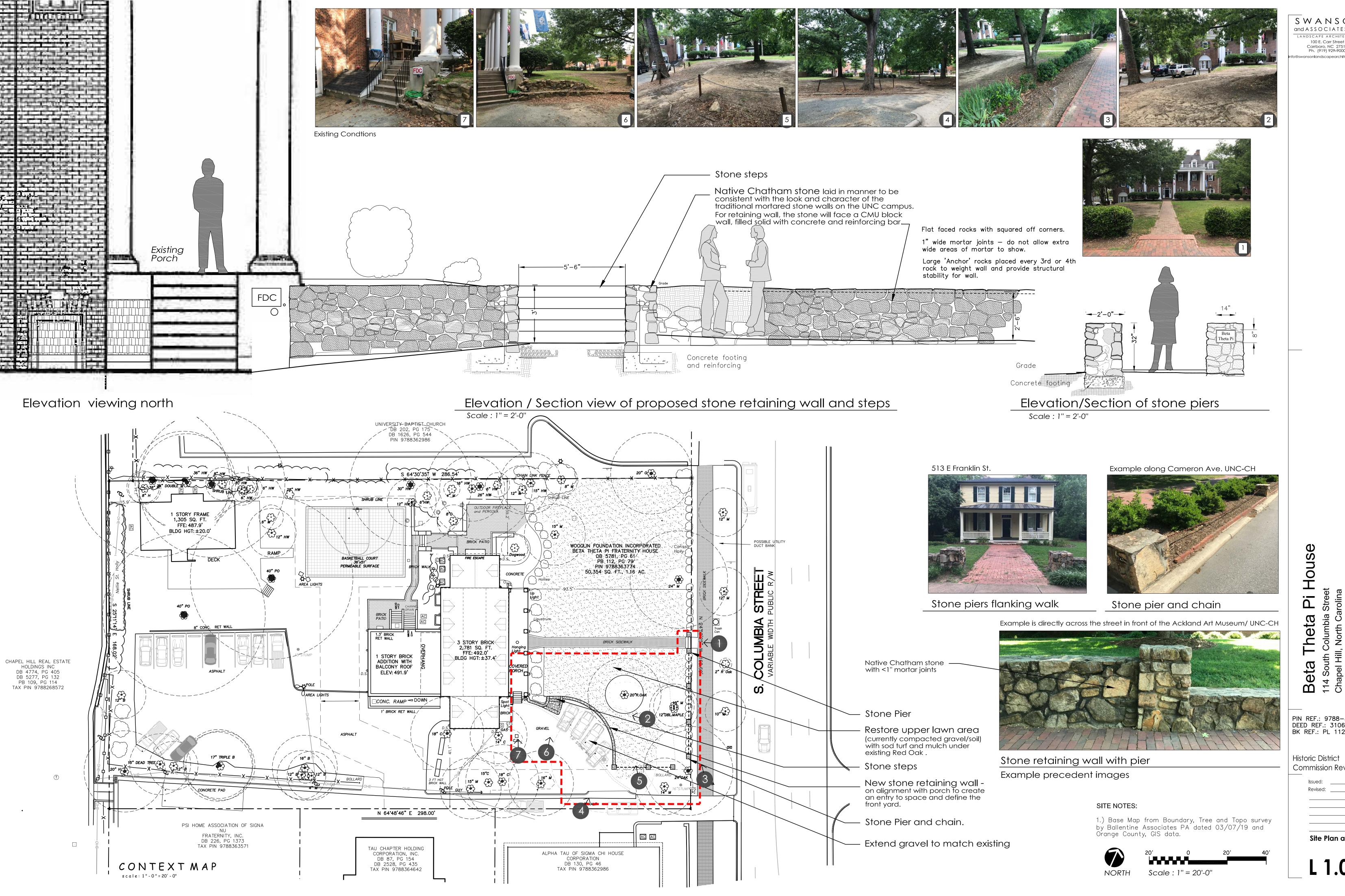
BETA THETA PI FRATERNITY HOUSE CHAPEL HILL, ORANGE COUNTY, NC

Tax Parcel Map with building footprint









SWANSON and ASSOCIATES P.A. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
100 E. Carr Street
Carrboro, NC 27510
Ph. (919) 929-9000

PIN REF.: 9788-36-3774 DEED REF.: 3106-160 BK REF.: PL 112 PG 79

Historic District

Commission Review

Site Plan and Details

