**United States Department of the Interior**
**Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

### 1. Name

historic: John W. Boehn House  
and/or common: Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity House

### 2. Location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>street &amp; number</th>
<th>1119 Lincoln Avenue</th>
<th>N/A not for publication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>city, town</td>
<td>Evansville</td>
<td>N/A vicinity of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>state</td>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>code 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>county</td>
<td>Vanderburgh</td>
<td>code 163</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>district</td>
<td>public</td>
<td>occupied</td>
<td>museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x building(s)</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>unoccupied</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x structure</td>
<td>both</td>
<td>work in progress</td>
<td>commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>in process</td>
<td>educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>yes: restricted</td>
<td>entertainment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4. Owner of Property

name: Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity  
street & number: 1119 Lincoln Avenue  

city, town: Evansville  
state: Indiana

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Vanderburgh County Recorder's Office  
street & number: Civic Center Complex  

city, town: Evansville  
state: Indiana

### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>title</th>
<th>Evansville Cultural Resources</th>
<th>has this property been determined eligible?</th>
<th>yes</th>
<th>no</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>date</td>
<td>1977–1981</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>depository for survey records</td>
<td>Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. Description

Condition
- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- unaltered
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one
- checked
- x unaltered
- original site
- altered
- moved
- date: N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Owned and occupied since 1965 by Tau Kappa Epsilon as a college fraternity chapter house, the former John W. Boehne residence is situated on riverine plain land facing north onto Lincoln Avenue, a major east-west artery. Only a mile or so from the Evansville downtown business district, the environment surrounding the old Boehne house had been residential until about twenty years ago when small office blocks and specialty shops (generally located in old residences) began intruding into the area. The Boehne house, though, is relatively isolated from this emerging urbanization due to its deep set back on an acre and a half tract of land. When it was under construction in 1912-13, this stretch of Lincoln Avenue then immediately east of the city's corporate limit was still mainly pastoral, but developers, recognizing its potential, were promoting it as the "most desirable and exclusive residential section" in Evansville, offering for sale large lots on which "suburban residences of the better class" could be erected. A number of houses of the "better class" were built in the locality, but none approached the magnitude of Congressman Boehne's mansion.

Designed by the local architectural firm of Clifford Shopbell and Company, the Boehne building is an imposing, stone-encased rendition of the Colonial Revival style which boasts a colossal pedimented portico. Standing two stories in height with an additional attic story, the massing of the house is basically square (46 feet by 46 feet) in ground plan, broken only by a narrow, two story pedimented projection at the rear on the east side. The balanced five-bay facade contains windows with multi-paned upper sashes and a generously proportioned central entrance with sidelights and transom bars. A cantilevered hood shelters the doorway and serves as a balcony for the floor above. A series of four multi-paned doors, in aggregate, repeat the breadth of the entrance below and open onto a deck bounded by a wrought-iron rail. Bedford limestone veneer blocks, set in a decorative pattern of alternating narrow and wide bands, sheath the brick bearing walls of the front and side elevations, while a measure of economy is exhibited at the rear where stucco over brick was employed. A pitched roof of Brookfield green pantiles forms end gables in which Palladio window units are featured.

The centerpiece for this basic four-square building is the monumental portico spanning thirty-two feet of the facade. Handsomely managed and proportioned, it is composed of four fluted, stone composite columns based upon a tiled terrace and supporting a pediment pierced by a lunette with keystone. Raking and horizontal cornices are classically treated with mutules and moldings. Along with an entablature, this same molding embellishment also serves to enrich the roof eaves of the main massing. The roof of the pediment is covered with green pantiles.

To the rear of the site on the north side is the original three-bay garage. Like the main house, walls are clad with limestone veneer, and the roof is covered with green pantiles.

The enfilade-plan of the interior spaces remains relatively intact. Finishes of stained oak woodwork and interior appointments—built-in bookcases with leaded glass doors, the coffered dining room ceiling, the wide main stairway, the crystal living room chandelier and various leaded glass windows and partitions—have all been preserved.
### 8. Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>prehistoric</td>
<td>archeology-prehistoric</td>
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<tr>
<td>1400-1499</td>
<td>community planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>1500-1599</td>
<td>conservation</td>
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<td>1600-1699</td>
<td>economics</td>
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<tr>
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<td>education</td>
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<td>1800-1899</td>
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<tr>
<td>X 1900-</td>
<td>industry</td>
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<tr>
<td>X 1900-</td>
<td>invention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X 1900-</td>
<td>politics/government</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>landscape architecture</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>other (specify)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Specific dates** 1912-1913  
**Builder/Architect** Jacob Bippus/Clifford Shopbell & Co.

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Boehne House, named "Monticello" by its first owner, John W. Boehne, was constructed in the year that he retired as a two-term U. S. Congressman. (Prior to that, Boehne had first served as councilman followed by a term—1905 to 1909—as Mayor of Evansville.) This residence is one of only several Colonial Revival houses built on a grand scale in Evansville, but its large site and sturdy construction give it a singular status. The mansion is significant for a number of other reasons. Boehne's prominence in politics was matched by his role in the industrial life of Evansville. As an officer and investor in a number of corporations (Indiana Stove Works and the Globe-Bosse-World Furniture Company, to name two), he was a leader in the industrial as well as the political life of the city early in this century. As a philanthropist, Boehne's most visible beneficence was the establishment of the Boehne Tuberculosis Hospital which served as an area treatment center for about half a century. The monumental scale and the careful design of the Boehne residence, planned by the premier architectural firm of Clifford Shopbell and Company and built by Jacob Bippus and Son, noted for quality construction, make it one of the most significant buildings in Evansville.
9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.5 acres
Quadrangle name Evansville South, IN-KY
Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quadrangle References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 6</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UMT References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Verbal boundary description and justification

Monticello, Shanklin's Subdivision, part lot 3. Knight Township. (See continuation sheet)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state</th>
<th>code</th>
<th>county</th>
<th>code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joan Marchand, Historic Preservation Specialist
organization Dept. of Metropolitan Development
date 20 November 1981
street & number 216 Washington Avenue
telephone 812/426-5487
city or town Evansville
state Indiana

date 12-30-82

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

date 12-30-82

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the National Register
date 2/7/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:
date

Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet   Item number 9   Page 1

Atlases, City Directories and Histories

Evansville City Directories, 1858+


Public Records

Vanderburgh County, Indiana. Deed Indexes and Deeds (c. 1816+).

Vanderburgh County, Indiana. Plat Records (1818+)

Vanderburgh County, Indiana. Knight Township Assessor's Records.

Newspapers

"John W. Boehne Succumbs at 90." Evansville Courier, 28 December 1946.

"Landslide Victory for Boehne and A Victory for Good Government." Evansville Courier, 8 September 1905.

"Boehne House." Evansville Journal News, 8 September 1912.


The former Boehne property comprises part of lot 3, Shanklin's subdivision of Sec. 38, T6S, R10W, and includes the following described land: Beginning at a point on the centerline of Lincoln Avenue at the northwest corner of Shanklin's subdivision of the South West Quarter of Section 28, Township 6 South, Range 10 West, being also the North West corner of lot 3 in said subdivision and extending thence east along the centerline of Lincoln Avenue 185 28/100 feet; thence south 377 feet; thence west 185 25/100 feet; thence north along the west line of said lot 3 to the place of beginning, excepting 30 feet off the north end for the right-of-way of Lincoln Avenue.
Boehne, John W., House
Vanderburgh County
INDIANA

Working No.: JAN 17 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84
Date Due: 2/7/83 - 2/13/83
Action: ACCEPT 2/17/83

Resubmission
nomination by person or local government
owner objection
appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria
Reviewer
Discipline
Date
__ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

7. Description

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

Condition deteriorated unaltered original site
-- good -- ruins -- altered -- moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

summary paragraph
completeness
clarity
alterations/integrity
dates
boundary selection
8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific dates</th>
<th>Builder Architect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property
Quadrangle name
UNIT References

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

- national
- state
- local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

| title | date |

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to ____________________________

Signed ____________________________ Date ________________ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet.
John W. Boehne House
1119 Lincoln Avenue
Evansville, Indiana

Pat Sides; DMD; 3/81

View of the front elevation, looking south

#1 of 8
John W. Boehne House
1119 Lincoln Avenue
Evansville, Indiana

Pat Sides; DMD; 3/81

View of grounds and house, looking southwest

# 2 of 8
John W. Boehne House
1119 Lincoln Avenue
Evansville, Indiana
Pat Sides; DMD; 3/81
View of the facade, looking southwest.

#3of8
John W. Boehne House
1119 Lincoln Avenue
Evansville, Indiana
Pat Sides; DMD; 3/81
View of the east elevation, looking southwest.
#4 of 8
John W. Boehne House
1119 Lincoln Avenue
Evansville, Indiana
J Marchand, DMD 10/81

view of interior main staircase

#5 of 8
John W. Boehne House
1119 Lincoln Avenue
Evansville, Indiana
Joan Marchand; DMD; 10/81
View of living room

#6 of 8
John W. Boehne House
1119 Lincoln Avenue
Evansville, Indiana
Joan Marchand; DMD; 10/81
View of the living room mantle

#7 of 8
One of the Many Beautiful Homes Along
LINCOLN AVENUE DRIVE

The home of Hon. John W. Bohne is rapidly nearing completion on Outer Lincoln Avenue. The structure, $35,000. Both in exterior and interior design, the home can be considered one of the most palatial in Indiana.

Along Lincoln Avenue drive, the garden spot of Indiana, lies beautiful Runnymede Place. The most desirable and exclusive residence section in the city.

FOR INFORMATION CALL ON OR ADDRESS
RUNNYMEDE LAND CO.
ASK MR. BRYANT.
226 MAIN ST.
John W. Boehne House
1119 Lincoln Avenue
Evansville, Indiana
Joan Marchand  DMD  10/81

From the Evansville Journal News, 6 June 1913: Boehne house under construction.

#8 of 8
January 10, 1983

Carol D. Shull
Acting Chief of Registration
D 0 I
W 434
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed is a National Register Nomination for the John W. Boehne House, 1119 Lincoln Avenue, Evansville, Vanderburgh County, Indiana.

The Indiana Professional Review Board reviewed the nomination, and voted to recommend its inclusion in the National Register.

Very truly yours,

Richard A. Gantz
Assistant to the State Historic Preservation Officer

"EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"