

FINAL

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

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

and/or common The Old Crescent

**2. Location**

Indiana University North of Third Street, East of Indiana Avenue;  
street & number South of projected Sixth Street; West of Projected Woodlawn Avenue not for publication

city, town Bloomington \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district Seventh

state Indiana code 018 county Monroe code 105

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name The Trustees of Indiana University

street & number Indiana University

city, town Bloomington \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Indiana

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Monroe County Court House and Indiana University Archives

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Bloomington \_\_\_\_\_ state Indiana

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1979 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state  county \_\_\_\_\_ local \_\_\_\_\_

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Historic Preservation

city, town Indianapolis \_\_\_\_\_ state Indiana

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Old Crescent district comprises approximately twenty acres of the Indiana University campus at Bloomington. Seven classroom buildings, an astronomical observatory, and an open-air pavilion stand on the property, as does an extensive wooded area. All but two of the buildings are aligned in an ell, open to the southwest; the two remaining structures and the woods are enclosed within this southwestern quadrant.

While "Dunn's Woods", named in honor of the farmer who sold this land to the university in 1884, covers most of the district, the angle of the ell is free of trees, giving it an open, park-like atmosphere. Benches dot the landscape and brick paths criss-cross the district's gently rolling terrain. The land rises gradually from the west, cresting along the eastern edge of the district; the eastern arm of the ell stands on this high ground. Just behind the northern arm, the land falls sharply down to the "Jordan River", a meandering stream named in honor of the University's seventh president, David Starr Jordan.

The district is distinct from its surroundings. The clearest break is to the west, where the campus adjoins downtown Bloomington. To the south, Dunn's Woods themselves shield the district from newer University buildings along Third Street; to the east, an access drive and the north-south row of buildings separate the Crescent from newer areas of the campus. To the north, finally, the Jordan River and Dunn's Meadow separate the district from a residential area.

Since Bloomington lies at the heart of Indiana's limestone-producing region, it is not surprising that all of the buildings in the Old Crescent feature the stone, recalling its world-wide prominence as a construction material at the turn of the century. All but two of them are constructed of it, and those two use it extensively as trim. Several buildings reflect the influence of H. H. Richardson (1838-86) in their rock-faced ashlar, their alternating wide and narrow courses, and their extensive use of the Romanesque arch. Two buildings (3 and 6, Maxwell and Kirkwood Halls, respectively) have an additional touch: alternating courses are smooth- and rock-faced, producing a striking pattern in the facade. The two buildings also feature distinctive floral ornamentation--foliated gable peaks, eaves, cornices, belt courses, scuppers, and capitals of engaged columns--making them subtle, intricate exhibitions of the craftsmanship of Indiana stone carvers of nearly a century ago.

The Crescent bridges the years between the Victorian era and the twentieth century and offers a surprising variety of architectural styles for such a small area. Buildings 4 and 5 (Owen and Wylie Halls, respectively) are examples of high Victorian styles; Building 6 (Kirkwood Hall) and Building 3 (Maxwell Hall) typify the Richardsonian Romanesque. Later years brought departures from these decorative nineteenth century styles: Building 1 (Student Services Building), a blend of Jacobethan and Collegiate Gothic, and the purely functional designs of Buildings 7 and 9 (Lindley Hall and Kirkwood Observatory, respectively). Building 8 (Rose Well House) defies categorization, as it combines the Gothic arches of the main building from the first university site with stained glass and a Spanish tile roof.

The district is much the same now as it was before the First World War. The structural condition of the buildings is good. Interiors are, with a few exceptions, as they were during the period of significance. Building 1 (Student Services Building) was extensively remodeled after two fires in 1969; otherwise, renovations and changes in occupants have done little to change the original woodwork and trim. For example, renovation of Building 6 (Kirkwood Hall) in 1966-67 preserved the tall doors and deep window reveals, as well as the wainscotting, wide baseboards, and window trim. The high ceilings of Buildings 4 and 5 (Owen and Wylie Halls, respectively) preserve an unusual feature: poured concrete arches that conceal the I-beams supporting the floors above. Perhaps best preserved is Building 3 (Maxwell Hall) and fortunately so. Wooden newel posts, staircases, doorways,

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and window frames are ornately carved. A spiral staircase winds its way up the east tower. Strap hinges on exterior doors suddenly break free from their rectilinear design and divide; the strands then intertwine in graceful arcs. In what was once the library's main reading room stands a large fireplace with a round horseshoe arch of pink granite, surrounded by rock-faced gray limestone with a foliated band across the top.

Renovations have done little to alter the exteriors of the buildings. What major alterations there have been occurred during the period of significance: additions to Buildings 3 and 4 (Maxwell and Owen Halls, respectively) and the reconstruction of Building 5 (Wylie Hall) after a costly fire in February 1900. A master plan drawn up in 1929 by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., whose father founded the profession of landscape architecture in America, made official what had become a university tradition--the exclusion of construction within the district that would alter its character or disturb its atmosphere. Not only would new buildings have clashed with earlier styles, they also would have had to be constructed within the Crescent, destroying the integrity of Dunn's Woods. Thus the only intrusion is an access road that passes between Buildings 2 and 3 and then turns west along the southern facades of Buildings 1 and 2.

The buildings within the district are:

Building 1 (originally the University Library, now the Student Service Building), a Collegiate Gothic/Jacobethan structure designed by the Chicago firm of Patton and Miller. It was constructed between 1906 and 1908. A northeast wing was added in 1927, designed by Indianapolis architect Robert F. Daggett; a northwest wing was added in 1955. The interior was extensively remodeled after two fires in 1969.

Building 2 (originally the Student Building, now occupied by the Indiana University Museum), a two and a half story structure designed by Indianapolis architects Vonnegut and Bohn and completed in 1905.

Building 3 (Maxwell Hall), a Richardsonian Romanesque structure designed by Indianapolis architect George W. Bunting. Completed in 1890, the building was expanded in 1907-08 by the addition of a three-story north wing. Originally the library, Maxwell housed the law school and university administration in the first three decades of this century.

Building 4 (Owen Hall), a polychrome brick cube. George W. Bunting was the architect, and work was completed in 1885. Originally done in a high Victorian style, the building was renovated in 1909-10 by Robert F. Daggett.

Building 5 (Wylie Hall), a three-story classroom and office building originally done in a high Victorian style. Designed by George W. Bunting, it was completed in 1885. The original structure was only two stories tall and featured a central tower; fire destroyed the tower and roof in 1900 and when the building was repaired, the third floor was added.

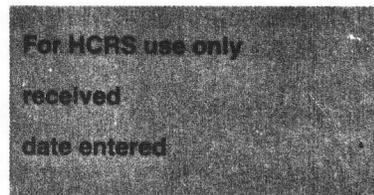
Building 6 (Kirkwood Hall), a three and a half story, limestone structure, with a Richardsonian Romanesque flavor. The architectural firm of Parker and Jackel (Anderson, Indiana) designed the building, completed in 1895 to house the philosophy and language departments. In the years since, almost every dean and department has had space there at one time or another.

Building 7 (originally Science, now Lindley, Hall), a classroom and office building designed by Louis H. Gibson of Indianapolis and completed in 1903.

Building 8 (Rose Well House), an open-air pavilion constructed in 1908. Designed by Indiana University physics professor Arthur Foley, the structure incorporates the Gothic archways from the old university building on the College Avenue site.

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Building 9 (Kirkwood Observatory), constructed in 1900. The architect is unknown, although it probably was Professor Foley. The building has a twenty-six foot diameter observatory dome and two stories of office space. While most of the scientific work by the Department of Astronomy is done in newer facilities, the building is still used for classes and public orientations.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1884-1908      **Builder/Architect** various (See Section 7)

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

The Old Crescent district of Indiana University's Bloomington campus is significant principally for its association with public education in Indiana, for the prominent educator who taught there, for the important public figures among its graduates, and for its diverse architecture, particularly its examples of how Indiana limestone has been used in constructing public buildings.

The Crescent is not the original home of Indiana University, which was first located at the south end of College Avenue. But after a fire in 1883 destroyed one of the main buildings there, University officials abandoned the site in favor of Dunn's Woods, on what then was the eastern edge of Bloomington. In 1884 they bought twenty acres from M. F. Dunn: construction of three buildings began at once, and students first attended classes at the new site the following year. As the university grew, new buildings were added until, at the time of America's entry into the First World War, nine buildings stood in Dunn's Woods. They reflected and epitomized national trends in construction for higher education in those years.

When the University moved to Dunn's Woods, it was a small (thirteen faculty and 156 students) liberal arts college dedicated to providing teachers and clergymen with a classical education. The curriculum stressed Greek and Latin, logic, rhetoric, mathematics, and natural science. The sciences stressed fact-gathering and study of specimens, not empirical research and analysis. David Starr Jordan, University President from 1885 to 1891, expedite change. A world-famous authority in ichthyology, he encouraged scientific experimentation and research. He reorganized the curriculum, giving new importance to sociology and psychology. A heightened awareness of change and time -- a side effect of Indiana's emergence as a leading industrial state (for example, Indianapolis produced more automobiles than Detroit until 1908, and the steel mills of the Gary-Calumet region were crucial parts of the nation's industrial power)--gave new importance to the study of history. Latin and Greek were suddenly less important than modern languages, so necessary in an increasingly interdependent world.

The Crescent's growth reflected the increased demands upon the University. By 1902 more than 1200 undergraduates were enrolled--an increase of over six hundred per cent in fifteen years. New buildings barely kept up with demand: Building 3 (Maxwell Hall) was completed in 1890; Building 6 (Kirkwood Hall) opened in 1895. Then came Building 9 (Kirkwood Observatory) and Building 7 (Lindley Hall) in 1900, Building 2 (Student Building, now Indiana University Museum) in 1905, Building 1 (Library, now Student Services Building) in 1908. 1908 also saw completion of Building 8 (Rose Well House).

Changes in the University's structure paralleled these changes in physical plant. Separate schools of education, medicine, music, commerce, and law were organized; a graduate school took shape in 1908. At the same time, university administration evolved into its modern form, admissions standards were set, a uniform grading policy established.

By 1917, Jordan and his successors, Joseph Swain and William Lowe Bryan, could look on their work with pride. Their institution, a university in name in 1884, had become a university in fact. These buildings symbolize that achievement.

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The Old Crescent is also important for its associations with nationally prominent scholars. President Jordan has been mentioned already; his career after he left Indiana to found Leland Stanford University made him a national figure in education and politics. Daniel Kirkwood was known as the "Kepler of America" for his work in astronomy in the 1890s, work continued by John A. Miller. Edward A. Ross and John R. Commons were leading social scientists of the Progressive Era, and spent the early years of their career teaching at Bloomington. Carl Eigenmann served the University as an internationally-known zoologist and as dean of the graduate school. Ernest H. Lindley graduated with the class of 1893 and stayed on to teach philosophy for a quarter-century before accepting the presidency of the University of Idaho (1917-20) and then the post of Chancellor of the University of Kansas (1920-39). James A. Woodburn enjoyed a national reputation for his work in American constitutional and political history and became president of the leading association of scholars in United States History, the Organization of American Historians, in 1926. Amos Hershey, professor of political science from 1895 to 1932, went to Paris in 1919 as a member of the Inquiry, the group of expert advisors accompanying Woodrow Wilson to the Versailles Peace Conference.

Although the campus spread beyond the Old Crescent after the First World War, it remained a center of research and scholarship. Research in atomic physics by Emil Konopinski, Lawrence Langer, and Alan C. G. Mitchell in the late 1930s so distinguished them that they were picked for the top-secret Manhattan Project when the war came, and thus helped develop the atomic bomb. Less awesome but equally important work was also underway in genetics. Ralph Cleland, Herman J. Muller, and Tracy Sonneborn made the University a center for advanced genetic research in the 1930s and 1940s with Muller winning the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1946.

Still later, Wylie Hall housed Alfred Kinsey's Institute for Sex Research from 1950 to 1955; the famous pair of "Kinsey reports" were written in Wylie's basement. B. F. Skinner, the leading American behavioral psychologist, conducted his early "rat maze" experiments in a Lindley Hall laboratory. And in the humanities, history professor R. Caryle Buley won the Pulitzer Prize for his Old Northwest: Pioneer Period, 1815-1840, published in 1950.

Prominent Americans spent their collegiate days studying in the Old Crescent. Perhaps best known is Wendell Willkie, Republican nominee for President in 1940. His classmate, Paul V. McNutt, pursued an equally illustrious career in the ranks of the Democratic Party, while Sherman Minton, two years behind these two in the class of 1915, was a United States Senator, circuit court judge, and from 1949 to 1956 Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. But not all of Indiana's distinguished alumni went into politics. Novelist Theodore Dreiser was a student here in the late 1880s; James Callahan, class of 1894 went on to a distinguished career as a diplomatic historian, while jazz musician "Hoagy" Carmichael divided his time between classes in the Crescent and jam sessions in the "Book Nook".

Two aspects of the Crescent's diverse architecture make it significant. As styles and philosophies of education changed within the classroom, styles and philosophies of architecture changed, too. The early buildings reflect the tastes of mid-nineteenth century America; High Victorian and Richardsonian Romanesque prevail. Buildings 4 and 5 (Owen and Wylie Halls, respectively) convey strength and stability, so reassuring after the University's troubles in the early 'eighties, whereas Buildings 3 and 6 (Maxwell and Kirkwood Halls, respectively) suggest a concern for "character" in their intricate treatment of stone and their decorative touches. The later buildings are in the more restrained styles of the early twentieth century. Less ostentatious, more functional, they reflect the scientific and practical virtues of a business civilization. The Crescent, then, preserves the work

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of two generations of Indiana's leading architects, from George Bunting's work of the 1880s through that of the Vonneguts of Indianapolis at the turn of the century, to the designs of Robert Frost Daggett in later years.

The Crescent is significant from a second architectural standpoint: it presents a graphic history of masonry practice since the latter part of the nineteenth century. The first buildings (4 and 5, Owen and Wylie, respectively) used brick as the main construction material, but have heavy footings and foundations of limestone, as well as limestone steps, belt courses, sills, lintels, and other trim. Building 3 (Maxwell Hall), built five years later, marked a shift to the local and famed Indiana limestone and is a showcase of stone carvers' skill. Indiana craftsmen provided Maxwell with decorative belts of carved work between floors and above the massive lintels of the great south window expanse. Ornately carved eaves and gables are a distinctive feature of the building. The carvers demonstrated their skill again in Building 6 (Kirkwood Hall), especially in the ornate west entry and the foliated eaves and gables. By comparison, Building 9 (Kirkwood Observatory), a simple cubical rectangular structure, and Building 7 (Lindley Hall) are austere, functional buildings with little ornamentation on their masonry exteriors. Building 2 (Student Building, now Indiana University Museum) carried this trend further, abandoning rock-faced ashlar for smooth-faced limestone in the exterior walls of the main floors and the clock tower, with pitched-face blocks at the ground floor and above the second-floor windows to suggest depth and strength.

The Old Crescent, in summary, preserves a campus that witnessed the basic reorientation of American collegiate education at the turn of the century. It also has significant associations with national prominent educators and alumni and, in its architecture, evokes the skills of Indiana architects, stone carvers, and masons, and reflects changing national tastes as the United States entered the industrial age.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

- Thomas D. Clark. Indiana University, Midwestern Pioneer. In Four volumes. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. 1970-76.
- Samuel B. Harding. Indiana University, 1820-1904. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1904.
- Burton D. Myers. History of Indiana University, Volume 2, 1902-37. Bloomington: Indiana University. 1952. See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 20

Quadrangle name Bloomington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

**UMT References**

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
E	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>
G	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>

B	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
F	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
H	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

From the intersection of Kirkwood Avenue and Indiana Avenue, north 280 feet along the east curb of Indiana Avenue, then northeast 85 feet along the sidewalk to the service road. Then 180 feet along the service road and through the parking lot behind building 1, SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

**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 Daniel F. Harrington

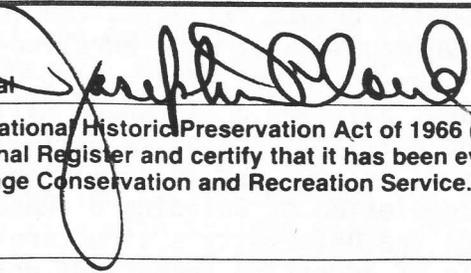
organization Indiana University Heritage Committee date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number c/o Indiana Geological Survey telephone (812) 337-2862  
611 North Walnut Street

city or town Bloomington 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title State Historic Preservation Officer date June 9, 1980

**For HCRS use only**  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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James Albert Woodburn. History of Indiana University. Volume 1, 1820-1902. Bloomington:  
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Theophilus Wylie. Indiana University: Its History from 1820...to 1890. Indianapolis:  
William B. Buford. 1890.

Indiana University, Bulletins and Registers, 1912-78.

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and 210 feet further along a graveled path to the northwest corner of the parking lot behind building 2. Then southeast to the south curb of the access drive, and 380 feet eastward along the curb until it passes a point 15 feet east of the east facade of building 4. From there, 175 feet south along the sidewalk to an intersection; 75 feet east along the intersecting sidewalk until it meets an access road; then south 600 feet along the west curb of the access road to a point two feet south of the south facade of building 7. Then west to an intersection. West 310 feet from that intersection along the sidewalk behind Swain Hall. Bear right at the sidewalk intersection just beyond the Swain parking lot and then north along a walk just east of Bryan Hall, to the center of the access drive. Then 80 feet west to the point of beginning.