

City of Madison Landmarks Commission  
LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (1)

I. Name of Building or Site

(1) Common  
Delta Upsilon House

(2) Historic (if applicable)  
N/A

II. Location

(1) Street Address  
644 N. Frances Street

(2) Ward (available @ City Clerk)  
31st Ward of 8th District

III. Classification

(1) Type of Property (building, monument, park, etc.)  
Building

(2) Zoning District

(3) Present Use  
Fraternity House

IV. Current Owner of Property (available at City Assessor's office)

(1) Name(s) Delta Upsilon of Wisconsin, Incorporated, a Wisconsin non-stock non-profit corporation, deemed to have been formed under Chapter 181, Wis. Stats.

(2) Street Address  
644 N. Frances Street

(3) Telephone Number  
(608) 257-9916

V. Legal Description (available at City Assessor's office)

(1) Parcel Number  
0709-143-0122-4

(2) Legal Description  
See over.

VI. Condition of Property

(1) Physical Condition (excellent, good, fair, deteriorated, ruins)  
Good

(2) Altered or Unaltered?  
Unaltered

(3) Moved or Original Site?  
Original site

(4) Wall Construction  
Red brick trimmed with cement stone

(5) On a separate sheet of paper, describe the present and original physical construction and appearance (limit 500 words).

City of Madison Landmarks Commission  
LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (2)

**VI.(5) Describe Present and Original Physical Construction and Appearance:**

The Delta Upsilon House is located 30 feet from the shore of Lake Mendota in the Langdon Street Historic District in the City of Madison. It was constructed in 1906 and 1907 and first occupied in the fall of 1907. The House commands a view of the entire shore of the lake. A veranda 12 feet in width extending across the side of the house facing the lake adds to the attractiveness of the exterior.

The house is built of red brick trimmed with cement stone. It is five stories in height, including the basement. The house, fronting on Frances Street, is 37 feet in width, exclusive of the veranda, and that on the lake 57 feet in length. The main entrance is in the southeast corner on Frances Street.

The basement includes the dining room, the kitchen with a large butler's pantry, the laundry, the boiler room and storage rooms. The dining room is a large, well-lighted room, affording a good view of the lake and accommodating 60 comfortably. It is finished in Georgia pine.

The main floor is divided into the reception room, the TV room and the chapter room. Weathered oak has been used throughout this floor, and all of the ceilings are timbered with 12-inch beams (the chapter room having a false ceiling covering the beams).

The reception room, which is 37' X 18', affords a beautiful view of Lake Mendota. In the chapter room, which is practically the same size, is a large fireplace with built-in trophy cases on each side.

The TV room, which is 16' X 18', is well adapted for TV viewing.

The second floor consists of 4 suites of two rooms each, a study and a bedroom, a single room, and a large bathroom provided with shower stalls and a ladies bathroom. The halls and rooms are finished in Georgia pine. The bedrooms, which are 9' X 12', are provided with single beds, chiffoniers and two closets. The studies are 9' X 16' and are well-lighted, attractive rooms.

The third floor consists of four suites of two rooms each, a study and bedroom and two single rooms, all also finished with Georgia pine, and a large bathroom with shower stalls.

The fourth floor consists of a main room used as a library and two bedrooms.

The architecture had been called "Flemish Renaissance," but is probably more accurately designated as "English Renaissance" or "Tudor Revival" style. It was designed by Jennings and Kronenberg who contributed this outstanding design to the district. It has been called an elegant, yet compact interpretation of the early Tudor revival style.

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 LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (3)

**VII. Significance**

<b>(1) Original Owner</b> Delta Upsilon Building Corporation	<b>(2) Original Use</b> Fraternity House
<b>(3) Architect or Builder</b> Jennings and Kronenberg	<b>(4) Architectural Style</b> Tudor Revival
<b>(5) Date of Construction</b> 1906	<b>(6) Indigenous Materials Used</b> Brick and cement stone
<b>(7) On a separate sheet of paper, describe the significance of the nominated property and its conformance to the designation criteria of the Landmarks Commission Ordinance (33.01), limit of 500 words.</b>	

**VIII. List of Bibliographical References Used**

1. Langdon Street Historic District, National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form, 1985
2. Wisconsin Chapter of Delta Upsilon, 1907
3. The Delta Upsilon Quarterly, March 1894
4. A History of Delta Upsilon, Wardon Allan Curtis (From The Milwaukee Journal) (Prior to 1900).
5. State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Intensive Survey Form, Historic Preservation Division
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

**IX. Form Prepared By:**

<b>(1) Name and Title</b>	Katherine H. Rankin, Preservation Planner, and Roger C. Minahan, Attorney
<b>(2) Organization Represented (if any)</b>	Delta Upsilon, Wisconsin Chapter
<b>(3) Address</b>	<b>(4) Telephone Number</b>
Suite 2200 411 E. Wisconsin Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53202-4499	(414) 276-1400
<b>(5) Date Nomination Form Was Prepared</b> August 22, 1988	

City of Madison Landmarks Commission  
LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (4)

**VII.(7) Significance of Nominated Property and Conformance to Designation Criteria:**

The nominated property was constructed by Delta Upsilon in 1906/1907, designed by leading architects, Jennings and Kronenberg, and has been called an elegant interpretation of the early Tudor revival style, though probably more correctly English Renaissance style. The house is representative of this important local architectural firm and a good example of the style of architecture. Jennings and Kronenberg designed a number of important historical structures in Madison including, we are informed, Agriculture Hall on the University of Wisconsin campus. No changes or alterations have been made in the exterior of the building since its original construction. It has been occupied by the fraternity continuously since its construction over 80 years ago. The local chapter was founded at the University of Wisconsin in 1885.

Delta Upsilon is unique among social fraternities, being nonsecret. There are no secret meetings, handshakes, passwords, signs of recognition or mottoes. It developed out of the growth of anti-secret societies opposing Greek letter secret societies dominating campus politics at eastern schools. Some anti-secret societies perished and the rest united into a common organization which became Delta Upsilon.

In 1881, the word "anti-secret" was stricken from the constitution and the word "non-secret" substituted. The significance of the society motto is known, there are no grips, no passwords or signs of recognition, and its constitution is public. In chapter meetings, the privacy of most social and business organizations is observed.

To Delta Upsilon belongs the credit of being the first to establish a fraternal magazine and of being the only fraternity that has ever been able to maintain a creditable chapter at Harvard; it held the field alone there for many years before finally being terminated. It is governed by annual conventions and an executive council of four graduates and three undergraduates.

The Wisconsin chapter of Delta Upsilon was founded in the spring of 1885. Three men, one a professor of botany, were the founders. Starting out with so small a number, it is not strange that the infant chapter met with many discouragements. Almost all the other chapters at the university sought to crush it by discriminating against it in every way possible. The new chapter struggled heroically and added some of the leading men of the institution to its ranks, but it was not until the fall of 1889 when it became one of the acknowledged leaders in the university world. In the fall of 1889 the chapter surprised everybody by initiating five of the most brilliant men in the university. Soon the chapter numbered eighteen or twenty of the U.W.'s best men.