KNIGHT INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

Information on the opening of the House can be found in the Stradley Papers under Foreign Students: 1937-38 (3/f-1/1).
Location: 151-152-2.
161-162-2.
We have today by warranty deed given to the Trustee of The First Congregational Church of Columbus, Ohio, our residence property in Columbus, Ohio, known as 104 Fifteenth Avenue. This deed contains no conditions except the ordinary statement in regard to current taxes and assessments.

We wish to state the spirit which has prompted the gift, and we trust absolutely in the discretion of the Board of Trustees of said Church that the spirit behind the gift may be made actual, but only so far as they, in their sole discretion, at any time and from time to time, deem practical, expedient and not opposed to or in detriment of the main program of the church itself.

Our wish is that this gift should serve as a memorial to George Wells Knight, and, so far as may be deemed practical and expedient, his name be used in connection with it and the activity which may result from it.

We do not ask that a perpetual fund be created by this gift, but we shall be happy if, for a period of years, it may be used for special purposes stated in more detail hereinafter, in which Dr. Knight and we ourselves have been actively interested in past years, and not devoted, except in the event of real emergency, to the general program of the Church.

In past years, while we were a part of the active life at Ohio State University, we all found great pleasure and satisfaction in bringing students of the University, from other nations, in closer contact with students of our own country and with each other. We did not regard this as work with foreign students but as work along international lines, of which the benefits accrued to the American students, equally with those to the students from other lands.

If it is possible that the house be used for a time in this sort of international work it will please us. We appreciate, however, that such use involves expense which the church may have difficulty in assuming or continuing without detriment to its main program. We hope that in some form such use of the house may be initiated and continued so long as the results seem worth while and the necessary financing is available. If for any reason such international work be deemed inexpedient, the use of the house as a means of closer contact between the students of the University and the Church would seem desirable to us.

The Trustees have the right, of course, to sell the property at any time or to rent it on an income-producing basis. If and when they do so, we suggest that the income from the resulting funds might be used for a time in the promotion of international knowledge and relationships at the University, or in strengthening relationships between the students and the Church.

If the Trustees create a separate fund from the proceeds of this gift there shall be no limitation by law or otherwise upon their power or discretion with respect to the investment of the proceeds or the use of the principal or income of such fund.

This document stands as a complete expression of our attitude respecting this gift without reference to other documents, letters, verbal statements, or other sources of information.

This gift is unconditional, and nothing herein shall be taken as creating any limiting conditions, actual or implied, in regard to it.

Dated at Columbus, Ohio, on the 1st day of October, 1937.

[Signature]

[Signature]
International House
future plans set up

By Carol Shaper
14 Nov '75

Even with an international house advisory council working to start it, the future International House is still on its first leg.

Before the house can be built, plans and some large-scale program for cross-cultural interaction must be implemented, said Osborn T. Smallwood, assistant vice president for international programs.

Some immediate plans that will begin in December include tours of Columbus and visits to business organizations to acquaint international students with the Columbus community, according to Smallwood.

FUTURE PLANS include consultations with the international and American students to develop programs for Winter and Spring Quarters. Limited financial support for these activities will be provided by the International Programs office, but the students will pay most of the cost, he continued.

Smallwood explained the first goal is a special program designed to announce the opening of an international floor in Jones Graduate Tower scheduled for the first weeks of Winter Quarter.

Before deciding on a course of action, Smallwood visited various international houses in the United States. After gathering data on what keeps those houses running, he presented it to the council and planning started.

THE PHILOSOPHY behind the house and its programs emphasizes contact and interaction between foreign and American students. It is hoped that this contact will develop cross-cultural friendships, Smallwood said.

Another philosophy is that the house and programs will contribute to a more meaningful stay in the United States for the foreign students, he added.

The first step toward a complete international house was setting up the ninth floor of Jones Tower as an international floor.

THE NEXT STEP is the planning of programs to develop cross-cultural interaction.

The final step will be to build the house and give room assignments. It will house an equal number of American and international students.

"The students will be dedicated to programs involving cross-cultural interaction," Smallwood said. He added this step will be taken as soon as the demands on campus housing make it possible.

THE COUNCIL HOPES to provide rooms for the students, offices for all associated international programs and facilities for programs such as concerts, lectures, exhibits, meetings and recreation included in the house, Smallwood continued.
Roland Elderkin, 73, points to the sign outside his current home, the Knight International House, where he lived and worked as a freshman in 1930.
stomping grounds after long absence

By Lisa Gavin
Lantern staff writer

Students today would welcome the 1934 cost of $25 a quarter in tuition. But they probably wouldn't have accepted the no drinking, no smoking lifestyle of a '30s graduate.

After 49 years of wandering from job to job, Roland Elderkin, 73, a 1934 graduate, has returned to OSU. He is living in the same house he lived in as a freshman.

He came to Ohio State in 1930 and started working as a student butler, gardener and houseman at the Knight Home, 104 E. 15th Avenue. The Home was given to OSU as an international house to help students financially.

"In my days, we had to be very frugal," Elderkin, an English major, said. "I was glad to be going to college during the Depression and didn't mind working 21 hours a week for room and board."

He worked for George W. Knight, who taught education and history at OSU, and his wife. If he worked over 21 hours, he would be paid 40 cents per hour overtime.

"The old lady was a meticulous house cleaner and found a lot of work for me to do," Elderkin said. "She wouldn't put up with the way these windows look now."

He said he had to dress in a white jacket for dinner and that Madam Knight had a little bell she would ring whenever she wanted something.

"I was trained to use the back door and I feel strange using the front door," he said.

He stayed in the Knight Home for three years, then moved into the Tower Club (Stadium Dorm) the first year it was opened in 1933.

"We were charged $1.25 for a bed and $2.50 per week for food," Elderkin said. "Recently, I ate at one of the wonderful dining rooms on campus and paid $5 for a single meal."

After graduation, he spent three years at Chicago Theological Seminary, but soon left. He received his master's degree in social work from Boston University in 1941 and did research work with William H. Sheldon, a Harvard professor.

"I entered the U.S. Army in May 1942 and had many adventures, chiefly in diagnostic clinics," Elderkin said. He was given a direct commission of 2nd Lt. in March 1946 and was released from service in 1946.

After receiving a master's degree in Library Science in 1953, Elderkin returned to Florida Southern College, Lakeland, where he had been an assistant professor.

After a year in Florida, he decided move again.

"Restless Roland decided it was time for a new adventure in 1954. After spending some months with my parents on their farm in Milan, Ohio, I took a Greyhound bus to Sacramento, Calif."

He didn't know anyone, but he bought an old bookstore and fixed it up. After nine years, he returned to Boston.

"At 73, I got homesick for Ohio and decided to come back. I thought of Ohio State and took a gamble on finding something in the area to keep me occupied for a few more years," he said.

He said after 49 years it's quite an experience to see all the changes in the Knight house and OSU.

"Everything is so dramatically different. The world is revolutionized since my day," Elderkin said.

The Knight Home had to improvise in order to remain open. Although it still houses international students, it needed additional income to meet today's costs. It expanded and now allows registered student groups to rent out rooms for their activities.

"You can't imagine what it was like to come back to a new lifestyle after the intimate association I had with the family," Elderkin said.

He doesn't think the change is right or wrong, but something he has to get used to.

"You have to keep up with the world," he said. "This is a new world for me and I'm trying to adjust to it."

Remembering that his favorite course at OSU was historical geology, Elderkin said that in it, "I learned the really awesome passage of time. I got a sense of perspective and where I belonged in the universal pattern."

He said he has a strong sense of what he owes to the world. "You have to give as much as you get and be a contributing member of society," Elderkin said. "You have to have a sense of humor in order to get through life's conflicts."

He explained that his life at the Knight Home was one of ceremony.

"If I obeyed Madam's orders, we got along fine. This was the best training I had anywhere. When I was finished here, I was partly civilized," Elderkin said with a laugh.

And now?
"I'm sort of the grandfather of the place," he said.
International house to close due to regulations, expenses

By Mary Stevning
Lantern staff writer 7-12-83

An OSU rooming house will close Aug. 1 because it does not meet city regulations and is too expensive to run, said OSU administrators.

Rodney Harrison, OSU vice provost for student affairs, said that before the housing license can be renewed for the George Wells Knight International House, 104 E. 15th Ave., a list of renovation projects must be completed. The Columbus Housing Authority requested the renovations.

Administrators would not disclose the specific renovations that would have to be made on the house, but the cost was estimated at $12,000.

"We just don't feel we can justify that expense," Harrison said.

Patty Zimmerman, house supervisor, said the house has been used as an alternative to dorms for foreign graduate students. The house has enough room for 18 students, she said.

"The International House has been managing at a sizable deficit for quite some time," said Charles Hampton, business manager for the office of Residence and Dining Halls.

Lack of student interest is one of the house's economic problems, Zimmerman said.

"There have not been enough students to fill the house for the past few years," Zimmerman said. She said the problem may be due to the fact that facilities are now offered to foreign graduate students in Jones and Morrison towers and in Nell Hall.

The cost of heating the large, old house is also a problem.

"It has been recommended (to the vice provost) that the house be sold," Hampton said. The profits from the sale could be used to make up for the deficit the International House has created, he said.

"During the summer, Eric Busch (assistant provost) will be looking at the terms to the deed of the house," Harrison said. "He will draw up a list of our available options."

Zimmerman said since only five people live in the house this quarter, finding them places to live in other graduate dorms has not been a problem.

Students living in the house, however, feel inconvenienced by the decision. They said they only received a months notice before they were told to leave.

"I think it's a stupid decision," said Manik Hossain, a sophomore from Bangladesh. "I can stay in the graduate towers only until the end of the summer because I am an undergraduate. I don't think they're losing money on this place."

Hossain said that no one is helping him find a new place to live, but he is sure that it will be in an apartment.

Anil Gidwani, a graduate student from Bombay, was planning to move out after the quarter "but their timing could have been better," he said.

"Lately I've noticed a certain apathy by the administrators, as far as things that should have been done around the house," he said. "I wondered why they weren't fixing things."

"Sanitary conditions have declined and cooperative work hasn't been as organized as it was in the past," said Masayuki Iwaski, a graduate student from Japan and a six-year resident of the house.

The students agreed that they liked the house because of its spacious rooms, location and the friends they have made there.

"I am very sorry to hear the news, because the atmosphere here is very good," said Naganori Ozawa, a visiting professor from Japan.

Ozawa plans to move into Nell Hall when the house closes but does not look forward to it.

"There I can have my privacy, but I'm afraid I'll be alone," he said. "I like the communication among the residents here."

The house was given to OSU by the First Congregational Church of Columbus. The church received the house after the owner left them the house in his will.
STECKER
Virginia Smith Stecker, of Marble Cliff, Saturday, February 8 at Grant Medical Center. Survived by husband of 49 years, Frederick; daughter, Carol Silka, Gunnsen, Colo.; son, The Rev. Frederick Stecker, of New London, N.H.; 4 grandchildren. Born in Fairmont, W. Va. She attended the Philadelphia School of Art for Women in Philadelphia, Pa. and was graduated from the McDowell School of Design, New York, N.Y. In 1937 she was active in the organization and the opening of the George Wells Knight International House, a residence and social center for Ohio State Students from other countries. From 1937 to 1942, she and her husband served as Resident Directors of the House. She was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Twigg 51 of Children's Hospital, University Women's Club, Women's Board of the Boy Scouts of America, Women's Sustaining Board of Grant Medical Center. She was a past member of the Ann Simpson Davis Chapter of the D.A.R., Crichton Club, St. Hilda's Guild, the Navy Officers Wives Club and was a Board member of the Big Sisters Assn. Memorial service will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 787 E. Broad St. 11 a.m. Thursday, February 13. The Rev. Thomas A. Meadows and The Rev. David McCoy officiating. Parking is available at Broad Street Presbyterian Church directly across the street. No calling hours. The family will greet friends following the service. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the international Student Loan Fund, care of the O.S.U. Development Fund, 2400 Olentangy River Rd., Columbus 43210 or to the Church, Synagogue, or Temple of your choice. Arrangements by SCHÖDIN-GER STATE STREET CHAPEL.
A. IDENTIFICATION & LOCATION

1. Name

1.1 It was voted by Board of Trustee on February 13, 1950 that this property be entered on the books of Ohio State University as the "George Wells Knight House."

1.2 Numerous other names have been noted, as follows:

1.2.1 The first year the house was in operation, Dean of Men Joseph A. Park referred to it as the "George Wells Knight International House." (H) The corporate name of the group which operated the house under lease from the First Congregational Church from 1938 to 1950 was "George Wells Knight International House." (Archives Box 3/h/31)

1.2.2 Drawings made in 1963 and 1964 for enlarging and remodeling the house use the name "George Wells Knight International Student Center" and indicate that this name lettered on the transom over the front door (P).

1.2.3 On April 8, 1965 the Board of Trustees accepted a $5,000 gift from the Columbus Rotary Club for the "International House Building Fund."

1.2.4 Campus Planning records use the name "International House for Men (George Wells Knight)" (P).

1.2.5 Business Office reports carry the name "George Wells Knight House."

1.2.6 An on site inspection by the author on August 10, 1971 reveals that there is no lettering over the transom and that there is a standard University building name plaque bearing the words "International Student Center and George Wells Knight International Student House."

2. Location:

2.1 Located at 104 East 15th Avenue. See map below.

![Map](image)

3. General Description

3.1 Type of construction:

Wood frame with brick exterior.
3.2 No. of stories:

Basement and three stories.

3.3 Increments of construction:

Building has been enlarged once. See sketch.

A--original building

B--addition

3.4 Present area of building as shown in inventory records of Division of Campus Planning:

8,233 sq. ft. gross; 7,918 sq. ft. net assignable

B. SIGNIFICANT DATES

1. The house is first listed in the 1913 City Directory, the canvass for which was completed sometime after April 14. It appears, therefore, that the house was constructed between April 1912 and April 1913. Professor Knight is listed as the occupant in 1913.

2. Professor Knight died February 10, 1932 (T 5/9/32). Since he died intestate, the property was transferred by probate court order to his widow, Mariette, and his daughter, Margaret, on March 23, 1932 (Deed Book, Vol. 967, p. 338).

3. The property was given to the First Congregational Church of Columbus, Ohio by Mariette and Margaret Knight on October 1, 1937 (Deed Book, Vol. 1072, p. 243).

4. Assistant Dean of Men Frederick Stecker and his bride of six months moved into the house in October 1937 to prepare the house for use as a place of residence for international students. They borrowed and solicited gifts of furniture, and were ready to open by Winter Quarter. (This information provided by Mr. Stecker.)
5. In January 1938 the George Wells Knight International House began operations. The institution had no organic connection with the University, but it served University students, its director was Assistant Dean of Men Stecker, and its directing board included Dean Joseph A. Parks, Secretary and Business Manager Carl Steeb, and Professor [Harold W.] Bibber (Hi).


7. The Board of Trustees on April 17, 1964 approved plans prepared by Tibbals, Crumley and Musson for an addition and alterations to the building. Bids were received on September 17 and September 23, 1964 (T) and on October 9, 1964 the Board awarded contracts to the following contractors:

   General: Joe Potter
   Electrical: Jess Howard Electric Co.

On April 15, 1965 the University Architect reported that the project was "substantially completed and ready for occupancy." (P)

C. COST

1. By action of the Board of Trustees on February 13, 1950, this property which came to the University as a gift, was entered on the books at a valuation of $15,000.00.

2. Between July 1, 1964 and June 30, 1966, when the building was enlarged and remodeled, the vaule shown on the books increased by $57,064.21 to a new total of $72,064.21.

3. Subsequent additions and deletions brought the June 30, 1971 total to $69,678.50.

D. MISCELLANEOUS

The building has been used by the University only as a residence for international students.

E. PHOTOGRAPHS

1. In Photoarchives:

   X 7610

John H. Herrick
April 10, 1973
ADDENDUM NO. 1

The first listing of Professor Knight in the University Directory at this location was in the 1912-13 edition. In the 1911-12 edition he was listed as living at the Hotel Lincoln.

John H. Herrick
February 4, 1976