

NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE KROEHLER CAMPUS
140 N. Wright Street
Naperville
DuPage County
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1270

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Midwest Region
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE KROEHLER CAMPUS

HABS No. IL-1270

Location: The North Central College Kroehler Campus is located at 140 N. Wright Street, Naperville, Lisle Township, DuPage County, Illinois.

The North Central College Kroehler Campus is located at latitude: 41.776463, longitude: -88.138603. This coordinate was taken from entering the physical address in Google Earth on October 20, 2021.

Significance: The North Central College Kroehler Campus is an example of a suburban college campus, built in stages over 49 years as enrollment numbers increased and student lifestyles shifted. The campus was developed for North Central College, which has had a presence in Naperville for over 150 years and continues to thrive as a local liberal arts college. The subject campus bears the Kroehler name, which has been prominent in Naperville for more than a century due to the Kroehler Manufacturing Company's position as a major local employer and former status as the nation's largest producer of upholstered furniture, and for the Kroehler family's history of philanthropy and involvement in civic affairs.

Description: The campus buildings represent a continuum of design styles with the original Kroehler house and coach house representing forward-thinking residential design at the beginning of the twentieth century that combines more traditional Colonial Revival forms with local Prairie Style aesthetic expression. Kroehler Hall South is a more historically-derived adaptation of the lines and massing of the original Kroehler house, and Kroehler Hall North is a modernist abstraction of the themes expressed in the previous campus building designs. More in-depth descriptions can be found in the subsidiary recordations filed as HABS IL-1270-A, IL-1270-B, IL-1270-C, and IL-1270-D.

History: The campus began as a residential property covering two city blocks, designed by architect Berkeley Brandt and built in 1907 for local furniture manufacturer Peter E. Kroehler and his wife Josephine Stephens Kroehler. The property was sold in 1945 to North Central College to house its expanding female student enrollment. In 1948, Kroehler Hall South was built for the college, designed by architect Herbert A. Brand. The final expansion of the property occurred in 1956, when Kroehler Hall North was built to designs of architects Mittelbush & Tourtelot. The campus served North Central College until 1975, when it was sold to Little Friends – Sheltered Workshop Inc., a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1965 and today is a multi-faceted human services agency serving

people of all ages experiencing autism, intellectual and emotional disabilities as well as their families. More information about the individual buildings of the campus, their architects, and specific histories and photographs can be found in the subsidiary recordations filed as HABS IL-1270-A, IL-1270-B, IL-1270-C, and IL-1270-D.

Sources: "Break Ground for Dormitory in Naperville." *Chicago Tribune*, July 21, 1946.

"GIs Swell Total." *Chicago Tribune*, August 29, 1954.

Kroehler, Delmar Leroy and Kenneth Kroehler. *"Our Dad": His Career and his Philosophy*. Chicago: J.M. Bundscho, 1941.

"North Central Plans Addition to Co-Eds Dorm." *Chicago Tribune*, May 15, 1955.

Reiff, Janice L., Ann Durkin Keating, and James R. Grossman. *Encyclopedia of Chicago*. Chicago, IL: Chicago Historical Society, 2005.

"5,000 College Co-Eds Begin Campus Trek." *Chicago Tribune*, September 2, 1956.

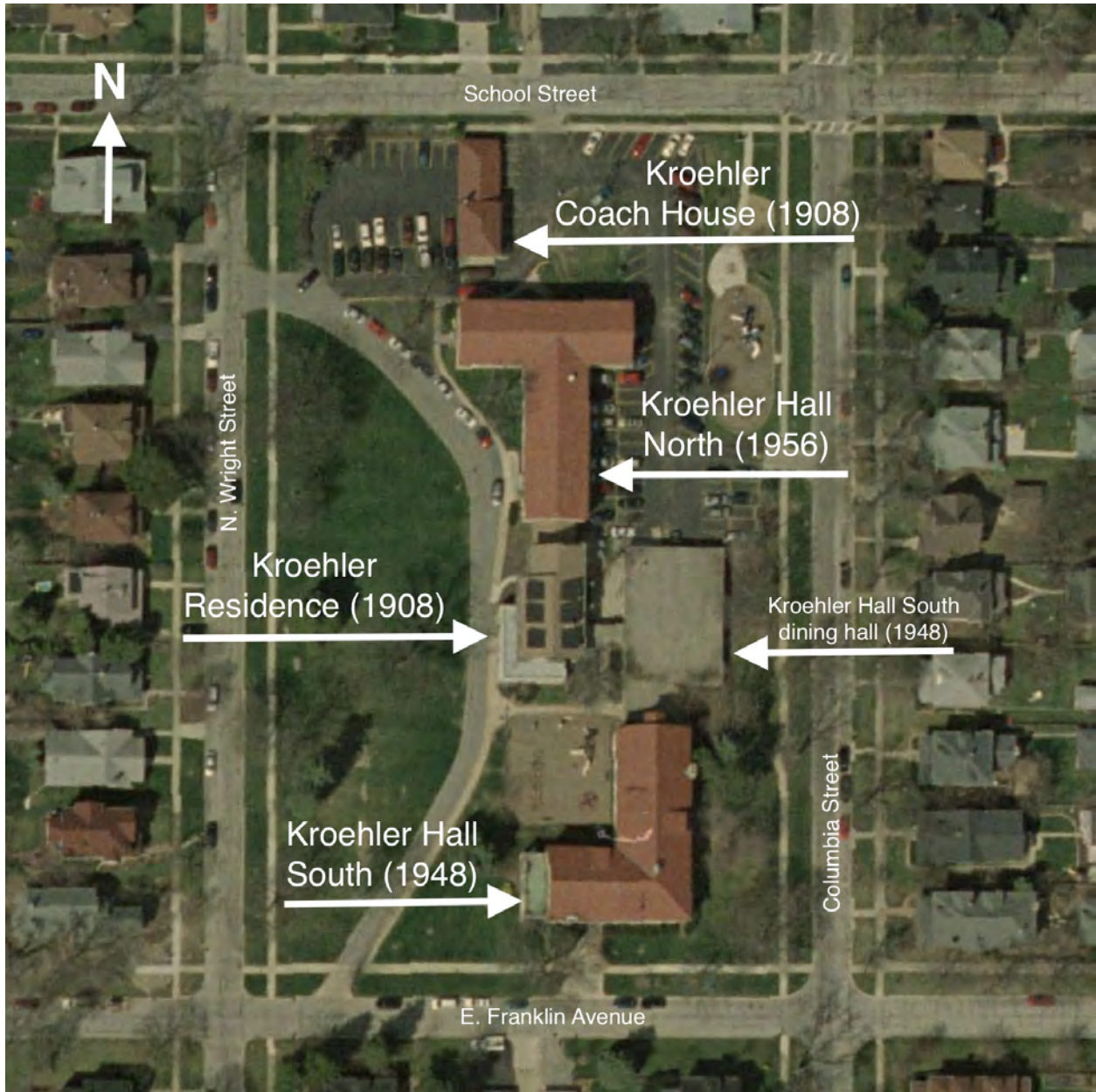
Historian: Andrew J. Elders, Architectural Historian. Independent contractor.
The completion date of this report is May 20, 2022.

Project

Information: Those involved in preparing the documentation for this report include Andrew J. Elders and Susan S. Benjamin, of Benjamin Historic Certifications, LLC.

This documentation project was prepared pursuant to Illinois Historic Resources Preservation Act (20 ILCS 3420) and its rules (17 IAC 4180) to address Stipulation I. MITIGATION of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Regarding Demolition the North and South Dormitory structures at 140 North Wright Street and 619 E. Franklin Avenue along with the Carriage House at 148 North Wright Street (Additions), construct residential units within the Peter E. and Josephine Stephens Kroehler Mansion at 126 North Wright Street (Mansion), and construct 41 single-family attached dwelling units on the site bounded by North Wright Street to the west, School Street to the north, Columbia Street to the east, and North Franklin Avenue to the south (Site) in Naperville, DuPage County, Illinois.

Appendix I - Site Plan



Aerial photo, 2002

Source: *historicaerials.com*

Appendix II – Supporting Images



View to southeast, showing l. to r. Kroehler Hall North, Kroehler residence, Kroehler Hall South
Source: author



Wide view to southeast, showing Kroehler Coach House at left
Source: author



Detail view to southeast

Source: author



Same view, 1950

Source: The Spectrum 1950, North Central College yearbook, public domain.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE KROEHLER CAMPUS
140 N. Wright Street
Naperville
DuPage County
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1270

Leslie Schwartz, Photographer, December 2020

- IL-1270-1 General view of property from north northwest.
- IL-1270-2 General view of property from north northwest, showing Kroehler residence in foreground and Kroehler Hall South beyond.
- IL-1270-3 General view of property from southwest, showing Kroehler residence in foreground and Kroehler Hall North beyond.





