

## **Preserving our Past: Alpha Chi Sigma Goals for Reclaiming and Reusing Building Materials & Architectural Salvage from the existing Houses**

In April of 2016, the Alpha Chapter of Alpha Chi Sigma met for a stakeholders' meeting, bringing together collegiate, alumni, and faculty members along with external advisors to discuss the future of its houses at 619 and 621 N Lake St. One of the main agenda items was a combined brainstorming & prioritization session to identify aspects of the houses that would be saved and used in a future building project. Below is a list of key items and materials that the chapter hopes to be able to use in the new building, as a way of creating continuity between the organization's past and future.

1. Pocket doors from the 621 library for use in the alumni room and new library area.
2. Hardwood floors from both houses – depending on the amount that is salvageable, these would be used first in the alumni room, then spreading out to the adjacent rooms, with the chapter room being the last area for use. It is unknown at this point in time how much the builders will be able to salvage.
3. Crown molding – this would be used first in the alumni room, then the adjacent rooms and finally the chapter room.
4. Fireplaces – the fireplace from 619 would be used as a focal point in the alumni room, with the addition of the decorative metal plaques from the 621 fireplace.
5. Bricks from both houses – while some would be used in decorating and custom-made pieces for the chapter area, the majority have been requested by Alpha Chi Sigma members across the country as a remembrance of the original houses.
6. Doors & Staircases – it is hoped that a local artist will be able to incorporate various pieces into custom made furniture to be used in the common areas of both the first and second floors.
7. Light fixtures – depending on the quantity and style of fixtures that can be reused, these will be utilized in the fraternity areas on the first floor.
8. Windows – depending on the condition of the sashes, frames, and glass, and the viability of extraction from exterior walls, certain windows such as the 3rd-floor west bedroom window of 621 will be incorporated in the fraternity areas on the first floor.
9. Additional molding & trim of all sizes will be custom-made into picture frames that can be used in the decorating of the common areas and can be bought by members for personal use.
10. Additional pieces will be used in a historical display in the alumni room.

Once a path towards new housing is confirmed, Alpha Chi Sigma plans to engage the services of a qualified expert in building reclamation and a local artist to pursue this vision. It is our hope that by using some of the original building material in the new building we will be able to have a flavor of our past move with us to our future.