TAKES ITS PLACE — The Kappa Alpha House is the first completed on USL's Fraternity Row, which will be dedicated July 22. In the background is the new Cajundome. Seven fraternities have been assigned lots on the row so far.

USL Fraternity Row Begins To Take That 'Lived In' Look

With completion of the first house on the new USL Fraternity Row, and its formal dedication July 22, a new chapter begins in student life at the University of Southwestern Louisiana. The late afternoon shadows of Cajun Field and the new Cajundome almost touch the site, which fronts a wooded coulee off Souvenir Gate Drive.

Seven fraternities have formed housing corporations and have been assigned tracts of land through a lottery system: Kappa Alpha, Lambda Chi Alpha, Kappa Sigma, Sigma Nu, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Theta Xi and Phi Kappa Psi. Clint Adcock, a Lafayette attorney, and fellow Kappa Alpha alumnus Dewitt David began negotiating the university administration about three years ago about establishing fraternity row.

Needed Funds

"To be eligible for a site, a fraternity had to show $25,000 in the bank, or that much equity in an existing house," said David, who chairs the site development committee. "In the spring of 1983, we drew lots for choosing the individual plots of ground."

The university leases these one-acre lots to the fraternities for $10 a year on a 99-year lease.

The 4,000-square-foot KA house, designed by Dewitt's brother, Dwight David, is now completed and will be dedicated at 4 p.m. July 22. Eight KA members have been living there about a month.

"The new house has brought KA much closer together," says Anthony Domingue of Lafayette, KA president. "I've seen more of the guys in a day than I used to see in a month."

Paying Rent

Each of the members living in the house pays $150 a month, which pays the house note. Domingue says chapter dues have remained the same. Having the new house actually reduces some expenses, since the Fraternity doesn't have to rent a building for parties and socials.

"We had no sense of pride in rent houses," Domingue says. "We're much more responsible now; there's much more of a sense of community."

Domingue foresees greater community among all the fraternities on the row:

Alumni Help

Alumni of each fraternity have assumed the task of forming a housing corporation, raising funds, designing a floor plan and drafting policies for use of the houses (in consultation with the active chapter members).

"We hadn't been real active as an alumni chapter in the past, but this has caused alumni from all over the nation to get back together," says Steve Oubre.

Lambda Chi Alpha recently broke ground for a 4,000-square foot house, scheduled for completion by mid-November.

Working Together

Mellington also foresees cooperation and community on fraternity row. "The competition will still be there among fraternities, but a healthy competition," he said.

The KA house is complete, and Kappa Sigma and Lambda Chi Alpha houses are now under construction. Theta Xi should be breaking ground within two weeks, according to TX Housing Corporation President Jim Leach. Sigma Nu is also close to the groundbreaking stage.

Phi Kappa Psi will submit its building plan within the next two months, and Sigma Alpha Epsilon recently received its designated site and should be ready to build within nine months.

All seven fraternities are planning Homecoming and other events involving alumni. All are seeking money for construction.

More information can be obtained by contacting the following housing corporation presidents: Theta Xi, Jim Leach, 235-9451; Kappa Sigma, Henry Busch, 234-1439 or 235-3341; Sigma Nu, Bob Bennett, 232-3345; Kappa Alpha, Clint Adcock, 981-5609; Phi Kappa Psi, Jim Sterling, 984-7974; Lambda Chi Alpha, Donald Bealer, 232-6726; and Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Ronnie Cox, 269-5729 or 981-1035.