

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Naming of the Union Drive Suite Building #2
Date: September 1, 2004

Recommended Action:

Approve the naming of the Union Drive Suite Building #2 as the Archie and Nancy Martin Hall.

Executive Summary:

Iowa State University is requesting that Union Hall Suite Building #2 be named for Archie and Nancy Martin for their outstanding contributions to black students and to Iowa State University.

Background

Archie and Nancy Martin came to Ames from Georgia in 1915. Archie was born in Wilmington, North Carolina and Nancy was born in Newman, Georgia. Archie was employed by the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad until he retired in Ames in 1932. The Martin's continued to reside in Ames until Nancy's death in 1947 at the age of 91 and Archie's death in 1960 at the age of 102.

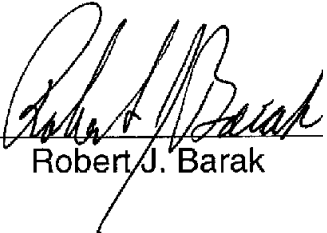
The Martin's purchased a lot on Lincoln Way near the Kellogg intersection where they built their home which today remains in the Martin and Shipp families.

Archie was one to whom a growing number of black students could go for counsel. Many of those black students found rooms at the Martin home. George Washington Carver was a resident in their home when he had occasion to return to Ames. The Martins provided lodging for black students until after World War I, when the number of black students attending Iowa State increased and it became impossible for the Martins to house them all.

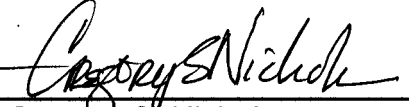
During that period of time Archie and Nancy would have been considered deans of students, directors of residence and counselors for black students, a need that was not being met by the university. Many of the students who found lodging in the Martin home went on to be leaders in their respective fields and trace their success in part back to the care and counsel they received from the Martins.

When it became apparent that the Martins could no longer meet the lodging needs of black students, Archie made an appointment with R. A. Pearson, president of Iowa State, to discuss the problem of housing for black students. President Pearson agreed to see that black students would be admitted to the residence halls on an equal basis with other students. During the following fall, black students complained to Archie informing him that their difficulties securing campus housing still existed. It was only after a second visit to President Pearson's office did black students find it easier to secure campus housing.

Because of the many contributions made by Archie and Nancy Martin to Iowa State University and the Ames community during a very difficult period for African Americans, it is a fitting tribute to name the new Union Drive Suite Building 2 in their honor.



Robert J. Barak

Approved: 

Gregory S. Nichols

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