“Castle” built in Victorian style

BY SHANNON WALTER

“Castle” housed in Victorian style

Cole Woodcox, department chair of English and Linguistics, said the “Castle” is the high style of Victorian architecture and that Kirksville is surrounded with Victorian architecture.

“Rarity does not reside in the houses known as “Castle,” at 301 Franklin Street, but several prominent individuals of the Kirksville town lived in this house as a nestling.”

Since its erection, the Castle has had many owners and residents. Samuel M. Pickler (the namesake of the building) was the first owner and editor of the Kirksville Jour- nal, which is located in the house, according to Violette. In 1866, Pickler constructed another house on Franklin Street, but several proud members of Phi Kappa Theta treat the turret on the ride side of the house known as “Castle” on 502 Franklin Street, as the “Castle” building.

When the school became the Kirksville Normal School in 1868, it was the first public college established in Missouri. The building was originally a residence for the faculty and gradually became a college dormitory. In 1872, the building was enlarged and a two-story addition was constructed, doubling its size.

The house originally served as a residence for the faculty of the college, but by the late 1890s, it had been transformed into a college dormitory. The house was renovated in 1891 and again in 1906, with the addition of a new wing. By 1918, the house had been converted into 18 apartments, each with its own small kitchen and bathroom.

The house was purchased by a member of the Phi Kappa Theta fraternity in 1925, and it has been owned by the fraternity ever since. The fraternity members have lived in the house for more than 90 years, and they have made several renovations over the years, including the addition of a new wing in 1918 and the renovation of the existing buildings in 1925.

The house is now owned by a private individual, and it is used as a private residence. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and it is a prime example of the Victorian style of architecture.