

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Kuhn, Charles, House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 340 West Michigan Street NA not for publication
city, town Indianapolis NA vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Marion code 097 zip code 46202

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date 2-15-89
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 4/13/89

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling, hotelFunerary: mortuary

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant**7. Description**Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concretewalls BrickStone: limestoneroof Asphaltother Metal

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The two-story brick Kuhn House (Photo #1), built circa 1879, possesses such characteristic Italianate style details as a hipped roof and pressed metal brackets. The symmetry and formality of the house provide an interesting variation to a style common to Marion County, Indiana. Built in a modified square plan, the house has a centered gable above the pressed metal cornice of the main facade. Highlighting the entire cornice of the house are sheet metal brackets which separate round arch attic lights.

The main facade of the Kuhn House consists of five bays divided into three parts. The central section projects and is highlighted by a cross gable with an ornamental pressed metal freize. The cornice also consists of pressed metal and is divided by metal brackets which separate the six attic lights. The fanlight-shaped openings each have a single pane of glass with the exception of the central projecting sections. These two blind lights are in-filled with pressed metal in a starburst design.

The second floor has six windows-- 2 sets of double-hung sash one-over-one windows on either side of a paired double-hung sash one-over-one window. The window hoods are incised limestone with a pediment shape. Each of the hoods consists of a decorated incised curve on either side of a star which is circumscribed by a circle. A saw-tooth pattern decorates the interior of the window hoods. The header rests upon limestone corbels incised with a flower-like design. The plain limestone sill also rests upon limestone corbels.

The first floor window hoods and sills are identical to those of the second floor. The centrally located double doors are surrounded by limestone molding. The header is similar to that of the windows. The flat arch has a foliated curve on each side of an incised "K". As on the windows the corbels of the door also have a flower-like design. Further down on each side of the opening is a three-quarter round molding carved into the limestone. Near the base of the door are two incised curves.

 See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c.1879

Significant Dates

c.1879

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Kuhn House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C. Constructed circa 1879, the house is an outstanding example of Italianate architecture, a common residential style in Indiana during the late nineteenth century. The Kuhn House is a particularly unique Italianate house for Marion County based upon the symmetry of its form. Due to the construction of the American College of Sports Medicine, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana moved the structure in 1984 from its original location at 413 West Michigan Street across the canal to its present site at 340 West Michigan Street to prevent demolition. A preliminary determination of individual listing for the Kuhn House was approved by the National Park Service on March 31, 1987.

Symmetry and integrity are the most significant features of the Kuhn House. The house is constructed with a hipped roof with a centered gable--a variation on the usual simple hipped roof version. Compared with other Marion County Italianate buildings listed in the National Register, the Kuhn House stands more formal and symmetrical in appearance. A possible explanation for the building's formality and symmetry may be the original location to the sidewalk. As seen on the enclosed map of the Kuhn House, the Kuhn Meat Market was originally connected to the house at its former southwest corner.

According to the 1887 Sanborn map, the Kuhn House appeared to be the largest residential structure in the immediate area. Surrounding the house were a variety of commercial enterprises such as an ice house, coal yard, and the Indianapolis Chain Manufacturing Company. Small single and double family tenement-like housing dominated the area just west of the house.

While a few other Italianate residences in Indianapolis appear

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Dunn, Jacob Piatt. Indiana and Indianans. Chicago: The American Historical Society, 1919.
- "John A. Kuhn." Indianapolis News. November 26, 1936.
- Polk, R.L. & Company. Indianapolis City Directory. Indianapolis: R.L. Polk & Company.
- Sanborn Map Company (Compilers). Insurance Maps of Indianapolis, Indiana. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1887.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	6	5	7	1	5	5	0	4	4	0	2	8	3	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Indianapolis and Cincinnati Railroad Company Subdivision, Square 9.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Legal Description of 340 West Michigan Street

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Suzanne T. Rollins, Preservation Historian

organization Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana date August 8, 1988

street & number 1028 North Delaware Street telephone 317-638-5264

city or town Indianapolis state Indiana zip code 46202

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The door molding rests upon two limestone bases. Each side of the double door has six panes of glass with a kick panel below.

Above the door is a rectangular transom window. Also distinguishable on the main facade are two pairs of limestone stringcourses on the first and second floors of this facade.

The east facade (Photo #4) forms a short "L". This facade is composed of 5 bays. At the cornice line are pressed metal brackets and three attic lights with fixed-sash panes. The southernmost double-hung sash windows of this facade reflect the same styling of the main facade, employing the same limestone sills and headers, but lacking the incised ornamentation. Each opening also has one-over-one windows. The northern windows of the first and second floors have segmented arch brick headers with limestone sills. These windows are also double-hung sash with one-over-one lights.

The north facade (photo #5) reveals the largest structural alteration. The unpainted brick shows the outline of a two story addition which contained bathrooms. The addition was constructed shortly after the original house. Its removal was necessitated due to brick deterioration which occurred after the demolition of the adjacent meat packing company, and also to facilitate the house move. Photo #6 shows the side porch likewise removed prior to the move.

The west facade (photo #7) has eight double-hung sash windows (three on the second story) with segmented brick headers and limestone sills and one-over-one lights. The first floor windows have decorative wrought iron screens. Ghost lines in the brick indicate the removal of a window south of center on the second floor.

The house move required several alterations to the building. Each of the four chimneys was removed to the roof line. A wood and aluminum porch (photo #6) was removed from the present east side of the house where the small "L" is formed. A small brick two story addition (photo #8) on the present north facade was demolished. The fourth change was the construction of a new concrete block foundation (photo #7) which forms a canal level walk-out basement.

The interior of the house is characterized by simplicity. The first floor plan consists of a center stairway with a room on each side. Behind the staircase are 2 rooms to the west and 1

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large and 1 small room on the east. The second floor has 4 rooms.

The second floor interior of the house is characterized by simple, painted woodwork (photo #9). The majority of windows consist of plain, flat wooden surrounds. The most common doorways are four-paneled with plain flat surrounds with or without a transom (photo #10). The first floor woodwork (photo #11) is likewise classical, however, it is slightly more ornate with ogee molding at the top and half-round banding. The door moldings of the first floor are similar and are channeled with transoms above (photo #12).

The straight stairway is likewise characterized by simplicity as seen through its carved newel post and spindles (photos #13-14). The one remaining fireplace mantel is located in the southeast room of the first floor; it consists of marbled cast iron (Photo #15).

The short distance the house was moved maintains the character of the area as well as adds historic fabric to the east side of the canal. The arrow in photo #16 shows the former location of the Kuhn House. The photographer is standing just south of its current location.

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to have symmetrical facades, this image is usually offset by a two story bay window on one of the side facades. Such is the case with the Eden-Talbot House at 1336 North Delaware Street (built 1871, 1978 listed in the Old Northside Historic District NR 3-24-78), and the Julian-Clarke House at 115 South Audubon (built 1873, NR listed 6-20-86).

Although the Julian-Clarke House has three balanced bays on the main facade, a two story bay window on the north side interrupts the overall symmetry of the structure.

The Eden-Talbot House, which compares closely to the Kuhn House in terms of details, also has a two story bay window which detracts from the symmetry of the main facade.

The majority of Italianate residences in Indianapolis are asymmetrical such as the Byram-Middleton House at 1828 North Illinois (built 1870, NR listed 5-9-83), and the Benjamin Harrison House at 1230 North Delaware (built 1874-75, NR listed 10-15-66). Each of these houses has a facade with one or two bays set back from the others. As previously mentioned, the integrity of the Kuhn House is outstanding. With the removal of a rear addition, the house now maintains its original shape and many exterior details.

The primary individual elements which possess the most significance are the limestone hood moldings. The pedimented hoods, which decorate the main facade and a portion of the windows on the east, consist of a decorative incised curve on either side of a star circumscribed by a circle. A saw-tooth pattern decorates the interior edge of the hood; incised geometric flowers ornament the ends of the hood. The central bay of the first floor on the main facade has a more ornate design with the initial "K" centered above the door. While stamped sheet metal and plain limestone are the most frequently used materials for Italianate window hoods, it is interesting to note that the Eden-Talbot House likewise employs incised limestone for its window treatment.

The pressed metal cornice and brackets also possess their original integrity. Typical of the Italianate style, the full arch attic lights are framed by stamped sheet metal brackets. The two central bay attic lights of the main facade are infilled with a sunburst design.

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The Kuhn House was originally built for Charles J. Kuhn, a German immigrant who arrived in Indianapolis circa 1857. Circa 1859, he founded Kuhn's Meat Market located at 407 West Michigan Street. Charles entered into partnership with his son-in-law, Peter Sindlinger. Following Kuhn's death in 1896, Sindlinger, along with Charles' sons William F. and John, continued to operate the meat market under the name Kuhn Brothers.

Following his father's death, John A. Kuhn resided in the family house with his mother, Fredericka. Mrs. Charles Kuhn died in 1909. Although family members ceased to occupy the house after her death, title of ownership remained in the Kuhn name until 1921.

The first business to occupy the house following the Kuhn family was undertaker Lucas B. Willis. Mr. Willis remained in the house from circa 1916 to circa 1920. Following the mortuary the house experienced a number of different owners, the majority of which maintained the building as a hotel. The first conversion of the house into a hotel occurred circa 1925. The Jefferson Hotel, as it was known, was operated by Emma Jefferson until 1932. During the mid 1930s the house was the site of the Morrison Hotel, and later in the 1940s, Henry Robb's Furnished Rooms. From the late 1960's throughout the 1980s, the structure housed the Four Thirteen Men's Wear Shop and two apartments.

In 1984, Historic Landmarks moved the house to its present location at 340 West Michigan Street. Prior to accommodating the Kuhn House, this location was the site of several coal companies throughout the twentieth century, beginning circa 1912. Such establishments continued to exist until 1980 at which time the Barrett Coal Company vacated the property.

The Kuhn House is presently owned by Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. Its new location did little to change the streetscape of the area. Both in previous years and currently, the Kuhn House sat adjacent to the Central Canal. The house is now located on the eastern side of the canal at an angle northeast of its original location. Despite the move, the house continues to maintain much of its original integrity. Removals from the house consisted of later additions which did not contribute to the structure's architectural significance.

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Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana would like to see an appropriate style porch constructed on the east facade to replace the original one. If sold Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana will place protective covenants upon the deed of the Kuhn House to insure that it is properly restored and meets the Secretary of the Interiors guidelines for rehabilitation. The Kuhn House is presently zoned CBD-2 for commercial use.