

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Graham, William H. H., House

and/or common D. C. Stephenson Mansion

2. Location

street & number 5432 University Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Indianapolis N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Indiana code 018 county Marion code 097

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Robert W. and Wanda J. Van Buskirk

street & number 5432 University Avenue

city, town Indianapolis N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46219

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Marion County Recorder

street & number City-County Building

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The William H. H. Graham House, built in 1889, is one of the oldest houses in the century-old Indianapolis suburb of Irvington. Located on a quiet, winding street near the former location of Butler University, this large white frame structure, with its Ionic columns and roof details, is an excellent example of Colonial Revival architecture. The house was remodeled in 1923 to resemble a Southern mansion.

The two-and-one-half story house has a simple square plan which gives the structure a solid quality. When the house was built in 1889, a one-story, covered gallery with a central portico crossed the south facade. Four columns supported the gallery roof. A wooden balustrade ran the length of the gallery roof. At the eaveline, the cornice and detailing were typical features of the Colonial Revival style.

Renovations in 1923 removed the one-story columns and balustrade. In their place, four, two-story Ionic columns raised the gallery roof to the eaveline. These massive columns lend a stateliness and dignity to the house, giving it the appearance of a Southern mansion. The main entrance is right of center on the south facade. The front door contains an etched glass window made by Ivan Pogue, a descendent of one of Indianapolis' first settlers. Most other windows on the house are double-hung, with one-over-one lights, but two windows on the second story are double-hung with diamond panes. A new balustrade runs along the gallery roof.

On the east facade, the most noticeable feature is a two-story bay window. The most distinctive feature of the north, or rear, facade is a two-story back porch. On the first floor, this porch is enclosed waist high, with a door on the left. On the second story, the porch is completely enclosed, with four casement windows. It is entered from the second floor hallway.

Another feature of the 1923 renovation is a four car, brick garage, which imitates the architectural style of the house.

Inside, to the right of the front door, is a staircase with rope-turned balusters. Of three different designs, the balusters are set in groups of three on each step. The newel post is a large rope carving, with three strands hewn individually, so that the hollow center of the newel post is visible. Two stained glass windows over the stairwell provide multi-colored light for the area. The outside of the stairway, from balustrade to floor, is covered by carved oak paneling.

To the left of the front door are two large oak columns at the entrance to the spacious living room. On the west wall of the living room is a fireplace with a brick face and an oak mantle, supported by Ionic columns. Both elements date from the 1923 remodeling. A six-foot tall oak bookcase, which was moved from the master bedroom, runs the entire length of the north wall.

In the adjoining dining room, a large bay window is on the east wall. The north door of the dining room leads to the kitchen. After a fire in 1979, the owners rebuilt the kitchen, utilizing new cherry cabinets and woodwork, diamond-paned windows, and a ceramic tile floor.

On the second floor are five bedrooms opening off a central hallway. The master bedroom has maple flooring and a brick-faced fireplace, with a maple mantle and support columns. The third floor of the house is a finished attic.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1889 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The William H. H. Graham House was built in 1889 in the Indianapolis suburb of Irvington, one of the city's first planned subdivisions. Although it is a fine example of Colonial Revival architecture, the house is most well-known for its association with David Curtis Stephenson, a politician and head of the Indiana Ku Klux Klan in the 1920's.

William Graham, who built the house, served four years in the Sixth Indiana Cavalry during the Civil War. President Benjamin Harrison appointed him consul to Winnipeg, Canada. After serving as consul for five years, Graham retired to the home he had built until his death in 1906.

Mrs. Graham retained ownership of the house after her husband's death. In 1922 she rented the house to Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority for use as student housing during the academic year of then-nearby Butler University. In 1923, she sold the house to David Curtis Stephenson, who had moved to Indianapolis to become head of the Ku Klux Klan.

Stephenson's years as owner of the Graham house coincided with his years as a powerful politician in Indiana. He used the money and votes of the Klan organization to influence legislative and executive action in the Indiana state government. As an indication of his increased prominence, Stephenson, who had resided in Evansville before coming to Indianapolis, undertook an extensive remodeling of the Graham house at a cost of \$22,000. It was at this time that he altered the south facade and added the four-car garage in the back of the house. However, with his conviction for murder in 1925, Stephenson quickly lost his political power.

In 1927, the house was sold to Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, of Butler University, for use once again as student housing. The house is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Van Buskirk and has been restored as a private residence. The house is one of the oldest and most prominent residences in the Irvington area. Architecturally, it is most noteworthy for its interior woodwork and stained glass, much of it original, but some of it dating from Stephenson's 1923 remodelling. The careful restoration of its interior features has made it one of Irvington's most finely preserved landmarks.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1.5

Quadrangle name Indianapolis East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	5	7	9	2	1	0	4	4	0	2	0	7	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification Lot 8 in Downey & Ohmer's Woodland Park Addition to Irvington, now Indianapolis, Recorded in Plat Book 4, page 18 in the Office of the Recorder, Marion County, Indiana.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert W. Van Buskirk

organization N/A

date 3-4-81

street & number 5432 University Avenue

telephone 317/359-6907

city or town Indianapolis,

state Indiana 46219

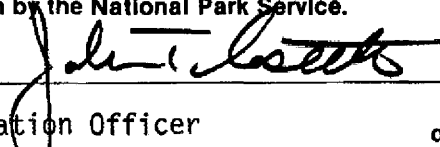
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

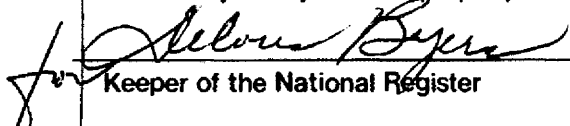


title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 6-10-82

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register



Entered in the National Register

date

7/15/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Wm. H.H.
Graham (Stephenson) House Item number 9

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Butler, Robert A. So They Framed Stephenson. Huntington: R. A. Butler, 1940.

Indianapolis News, July 28, 1906, P. 3, Col. 5

Jackson, Kenneth T. The Ku Klux Klan in the City. New York: Oxford University Press, 1967.

Leibowitz, Irving. My Indiana. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1964.

Martin, John Bartlow. Indiana: An Interpretation. New York: Alfred A. Knops, 1947.

Niblack, John L. The Life and Times of a Hoosier Judge. Washington, IN: J. L. Niblack, 1973.

Documents, letters and personal papers located in the D. C. Stephenson and Ed Jackson files in the William Henry Smith Library, Indiana Historical Society.

Clipping file, Indiana State Library.