

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM OKWM 9-17-75

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 6 574190 4403650  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 C         

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 D         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Frances M. Howard

ORGANIZATION

DATE

7/14/75

STREET & NUMBER

1454 East Tenth Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Indianapolis

STATE

Indianapolis

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

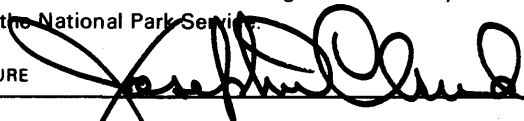
NATIONAL   

STATE X

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

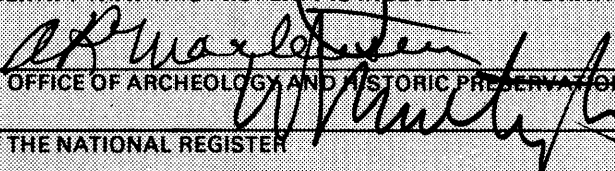


TITLE Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE July 17, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER



DATE

9/5/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST:

DATE SEP 4 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1880's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Prosser

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Prosser House, built in the 1880's is undoubtedly one of the most unusual and interesting small old houses in the city. The proportion and interesting detail mark it as an outstanding example of domestic architecture, particularly for the period when the jig-saw was torturing wood into veritable nightmares of decoration, even in the lavish mansions being built at the time. And it is quite possible that it could be the only example in the country showing the innovative use of cement cast for decorative use in architecture and achieving such clean detail as to fool the eye of experts as to the medium employed.

Naturally the ornate plaster-work of the interior would almost never be found in such a small house, and in this case only because the builder-owner was an artist in his own right. Although elaborate in the extreme the ensemble is kept within reason by the restraint of an excellent sense of design. This may well be the only remaining example of the work of this master craftsman for the last public building for which his work was commissioned was the Claypool Hotel, the one truly plush hotel the city boasted, now demolished and soon to be forgotten.

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE 1880

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In the 1880's William Prosser, an English decorative plaster worker took over a wooden frame lathea stucco cover home onto which he applied decoration and design in cast concrete concomitant with the elaborate plaster work of the interior the result was a small (38' x 50') 1 1/2 story cross gabled structure with charming details. The 5 dormers which pierce the roof are relatively simple, however tying the roof line to the walls is a heavy classical ogee moulding resting on a cornice under which dentils continue around the entire structure. Moulded window caps are supported by voluted brackets rising from simulated pilasters on either side, which in turn are supported by an ogee moulded sill resting on corbels. A simulated subbase rised to 18" and ties to the wall with a small moulding. The stucco walls are scored in the manner to suggest Caen stone and repeat the joints of the 9" x 18" blocks of the studio at the front, while the corners are accented by heavy stucco quoining. A small front porch (completely restored) fits into the south-east corner between the studio and the body of the house. Triple arched windows in the studio are separated by four fluted pilasters and capped with vermiculated keystones; above projects a decorative shelf, supported by consoles, as a base for the window in the front gable. In the east gable a small decorative seraph masks a small ventilating window, the one in the opposite (west) gable having been destroyed. The kitchen, bath and small porth at the rear are a lean-to addition: above these was probably at one time a small porch with a door opening from the upstairs.

Of the six rooms on the first floor the music studio, bed-room and dining room have been completely restored, while the ornate ceilings in the living room and art studio are in the process of being cleaned and repaired. The moulded ceiling decorations in these last two rooms rely heavily on classical motifs, - tongue-and-dart, acanthus, anthemion, etc., as borders to break the areas into formal patterns, while the music studio tends towards a renaissance treatment of faces, flowers and arabesques. In these rooms the 18" baseboard is also a moulded plaster. The plaster work in the two upstairs rooms have fallen into disrepair.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUL 22 1975  
DATE ENTERED SEP 5 1975

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  
Prosser House  
AND/OR COMMON  
Prosser House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
1454 East 10th Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Indianapolis  
STATE  
Indiana  
VICINITY OF  
11th  
COUNTY  
Marion  
CODE  
18  
CODE  
097  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Frances M. Howard & John Paul Seiberling  
STREET & NUMBER  
1454 East Tenth Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Indianapolis  
STATE  
Indiana  
VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Marion County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
East Washington Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Indianapolis  
STATE  
Indiana

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
HABS  
DATE  
1958, 1959  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
HABS  
CITY, TOWN  
Washington, D.C.  
STATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL