

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received AUG - 1 1983  
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Harry A. Keplinger House

and/or common Old House Interiors

2. Location

street & number 235 West Creighton Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Fort Wayne N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Allen code 003

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 checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Fremion

street & number 1514 Hadley Road

city, town Fort Wayne N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46804

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Allen County Courthouse

street & number One Main Street

city, town Fort Wayne state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>N/A</u>

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Harry A. Keplinger House is situated in the southwest section of Fort Wayne, on the southeast corner of Webster and Creighton Streets. The 2 1/2 story brick structure features a rock-faced stone foundation on the front facade, and stone quoins below the stone water table on its other facades. Its steeply pitched roof and dormers, its round towers, and the use of rock-faced stone reflect the influence of the Richardsonian Romanesque.

The house is basically square in plan, with a round, two-story tower at each of the front corners, and a larger dormer centered between the two conical roofs. A one-story projecting bay is located on the west side. All windows in the house are double-hung; those on the front and side bay are rectangular, and the rest are segmentally arched. Window glass on the towers is curved.

Between the towers on the main (north) facade is a wide porch. Its foundation is rock-faced limestone, supporting a brick balustrade wall, and flared brick columns. Resting on the columns are low, wide arches of wood, followed by a plain fascia, and then the roof. Centered at the second story above the porch are three windows, separated by narrow brick muntins, with a corbelled brick string course at the lintel line.

Interest is provided below the eaves by exposed rafter ends. The hipped roof is slate. A large, gable-roofed dormer pierces the roof directly above the previously mentioned triple windows. It has three smaller windows, their upper sash multi-paned, with a dressed limestone continuous lintel. Above the center window is an arched window, giving the ensemble a Palladian configuration. A stone, ogee-shaped archivolt outlines the brick arch. The tip of the pointed gable parapet is also of stone, as are the decorative caps at the lower ends of the rake.

The towers have a plain frieze at the eave-line of the house roof, with the conical slate roof starting above this. The tower roofs are capped with metal cones. Two smaller dormers, not alike, are located on the west face of the roof. A modern wooden deck has been built at the rear of the roof.

The front door has a magnificent cut glass window. In the small foyer is a tile floor, followed by another door with cut glass. Inside is a large entry/stair hall with an original fireplace. Off the entry hall are four rooms: the parlor, living room, dining room, and kitchen. The living room and parlor include the two tower spaces; the parlor has an original fireplace. The dining room features a beamed ceiling, and the projecting west bay. All interior woodwork is original.

At the stairway landings are two arched windows with cut glass. On the second floor are a large central hall and three bedrooms, two of which have original fireplaces. The third bedroom is currently used as a kitchen.

Continuing from the hallway is another stair, leading to a third-floor apartment; both were added in 1972. In 1973 the back porch was removed, and an office was added. A c.1910 garage was remodeled in 1973.

# 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 checked="" 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** c. 1893      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance** (~~in two paragraphs~~)

The Harry A. Keplinger House is significant for both its architecture and for its association with a prominent Fort Wayne businessman and banker. In an excellent state of preservation, the Keplinger House is one of the most intact of Fort Wayne's more elaborate houses from this period.

With its pair of distinctive towers and steeply gabled central dormer, the house is one of the most elaborate structures in an otherwise more modest neighborhood. It is an excellent blend of architectural styles popular in the last decade of the 19th century, and was one of the earliest structures in Williams' Woodland Park Addition.

Harry A. Keplinger, a prominent turn-of-the-century businessman, built this lavish home for himself and his family around 1893. Keplinger started out as a bookkeeper for the Hamilton National Bank, where he was later promoted to teller. He went on to assist in the establishment of several Fort Wayne financial institutions.

In 1889, Keplinger helped organize the Allen County Building and Loan Association, later Citizens' Trust Company, serving as treasurer of this organization. In 1892 he helped form the White National Bank, where he became cashier. When this bank merged with First National Bank in 1905, Keplinger became vice-president of the new organization.

In addition to his banking activities, Keplinger also owned interests in Service Coal Company and C. T. Pidgeon Millinery Company.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Fort Wayne West, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	6	6	5	6	2	6	0	4	5	4	7	3	4	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

The lot is 52' x 150' bounded on the West by Webster Street and bounded on the North by West Creighton Avenue. Lot No. 213 of Williams' Addition.

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 Paul and Marian Fremion

organization N/A

date 8-18-78

street & number 1514 Hadley Road

telephone 219/456-6619

city or town Fort Wayne

state Indiana 46804

# 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

*James M. Peterson*

7-21-83

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date

For NPS use only

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

*J. Allouez Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date

9/1/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Keplinger House

Item number 9

Page 1

Crampton, Thomas J. Historical Houses of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Fort Wayne, Indiana:  
Arch, Inc.

Griswold, Bert J. Builders of Greater Fort Wayne. Fort Wayne, Indiana: 1926

Robertson, Robert S. History of the Maumee River Basin, Vol. 2. Indianapolis: Bowen  
and Slocum, 1905.