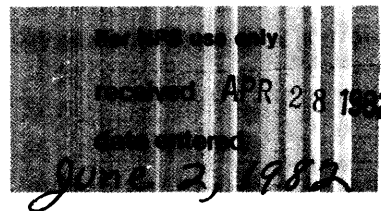


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**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 John H. Bass Mansion, (Brookside)

and/or common St. Francis College Library

2. Location

street & number 2701 Spring Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Fort Wayne

N/A vicinity of

~~congressional district~~

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name St. Francis College of Fort Wayne, Indiana; Attn: Sister Jo Ellen Scheetz

street & number 2701 Spring Street

city, town Fort Wayne

N/A vicinity of

state Indiana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Allen County Recorder's Office

street & number Room 206, City-County Building

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, 202 N. Alabama Street

city, town Indianapolis

state Indiana 46204

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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 date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The John Bass Mansion, "Brookside," is located in the western suburbs of Fort Wayne. The house was originally the focus of a country estate, which has since become the campus of St. Francis College. The mansion stands on a low hill surrounded on the south and west by an artificial lake, which was constructed about 1882.

In that same year, John Bass built a wood-framed vacation house on the site of the present mansion. Wing and Mahurin, the noted Ft. Wayne architectural firm, prepared the plans for the \$15,000 project. In 1887, the same firm was engaged to enlarge and remodel the structure. The floor plan was enlarged to its present dimensions, and a 12" stone veneer, turrets, and a cupola over the ballroom were added at a cost of \$35,000.

On February 11, 1902, a fire virtually destroyed the home; very little remained but the foundations. Wing and Mahurin were once again called upon; the new structure used the same floorplan, with masonry bearing walls and reinforced concrete floors.

The mansion is a massive, two-story structure, built of rock-faced sandstone and roofed in red glazed ceramic tile. The steeply pitched roof contains a third floor level, which has windows in the numerous dormers, gables, and towers of the roofline. The architects, Wing and Mahurin, worked almost exclusively in the Richardsonian Romanesque mode, and this is one of their most elaborate works.

The plan is an ell whose main wing extends east and west, and is intersected by a north-south wing on the west. This arrangement is complicated by a third wing which bisects the vertex of the ell at a 30° angle and is attached to the north-south wing, in order to accommodate a triangular stairwell and a third floor ballroom. This area has a triangular plan hipped roof, which is truncated by a large circular cupola over the ballroom.

(Please see continuation sheet)

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c 1902

Builder/Architect Wing and Mahurin

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The John H. Bass Mansion is significant as an outstanding example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style as interpreted by a prominent Indiana architectural firm, and as the home of one of Fort Wayne's most distinguished citizens.

The firm of Wing and Mahurin (Fort Wayne) was responsible for several prominent buildings throughout the state, including the Hancock, Starke, and Monroe County Courthouses, and Fort Wayne's City Hall. This is one of their finest works, executed in the style with which the firm came to be identified.

The house was built for John Henry Bass. Born in 1835, he moved to Fort Wayne in 1851, and in 1859 founded the firm of Bass and Force, later the Bass Foundry and Machine Works. Mr. Bass also established, or had interest in, firms in St. Louis; Chicago; Lenoir, Tennessee, and Rock Run, Alabama. He was one of the owners of Fort Wayne's original street railway line, and served for many years as the president and chairman of the Board of Directors of the First National Bank of Fort Wayne.

John H. Bass passed away in 1922. In 1944 the property was acquired by St. Francis College for its campus.

AGENCE NOT VERIFIED
NINA NOT VERIFIED

9. Major Bibliographical References

PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Fort Wayne West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	6	5	3	2	1	0	4	5	4	9	8	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

PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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 Terence F. Sebright, Head Librarian

organization St. Francis College date June 6, 1977

street & number 2701 Spring Street telephone 219/432-3551, Ext. 247

city or town Fort Wayne state Indiana

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.

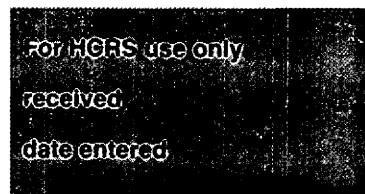
State Historic Preservation Officer signature *John L. Smith*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 4-5-82

For NPS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u><i>Beth Grosvenor</i></u>	date <u>6/2/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u><i>Debra M. McClelland</i></u>	date <u>6/1/82</u>
Chief of Registration	

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The ends and intersections of the wings are further emphasized by the placement of additional elements. At the northwest corner, where the primary wings intersect, there is a large, three-story corner turret, which contains a stairwell and is intersected at its base by a porte cochere on the north end of the west elevation. A crossing is formed by a smaller mass at the east end of the main east-west wing, which terminates in a five-sided, polygonal bay that is, in turn, wrapped by a one-story veranda. Crossings are also suggested in the roofline by large gables at each end of the west elevation. The angled wing terminates in a semi-circular conservatory on the first floor, flanked by round, three-story turrets which extend to the roofline on either side of a tall central chimney.

The main approach to the mansion is by way of a drive which forms a loop in front of the house and then encircles the knoll after passing through the porte cochere on the west side. The main (north) elevation is composed of the stair turret at the west and balanced by the crossing gable on the east, with the entrance located behind a porch in the interval between. The three bays of the porch project slightly from the facade, and the westernmost bay projects still further, and is faced with a large round arch which matches those of the porte cochere on the west. The impostes of the arch are stout pilasters with foliated capitals, surmounted by rampant griffins. The smooth voussoirs of the arch are accented by elaborate archivolt mouldings and foliate patterns in the haunches, above. The cornice is an exaggerated egg and dart pattern, with gargoyles at its corners. Within the arched opening, a flight of steps ascends to double doors whose glazed panels are etched and incised with John Bass' monogram.

The two remaining bays of the porch are supported by colonettes set on a solid, rock-faced wall; this area has been glazed and incorporated into the house. The wall above the porch has deeply recessed windows and a frieze of foliated running ornament set beneath the machicolations of the eave. Centrally placed above the eave is an open gallery whose two adjacent gables extend from a hipped projection of the roof. Fenestration of the projecting gabled bay on the east end of the elevation consists of a large, deepset, square opening on the first and second floors, and a triple window on the third floor. The first floor window has a large, rectangular light with three, square transom lights of leaded art glass. The second floor window is evenly divided into three tall, narrow, one-over-one, doublehung sash separated by sandstone mullions. Vertically aligned with these windows are three round-arched, third floor windows; the central window is taller than the flanking lights and is separated from them by mullions in the form of colonettes.

The west elevation is dominated by the porte cochere and turret at the north end, and by the two large gables along the roofline. All three sides of the porte cochere consist of large, round arches such as that described on the north elevation. The superstructure was originally an open deck with a solid parapet; sometime before 1922 this area was enclosed by a low hipped roof supported by massive square, sandstone pillars. The interstices are filled with wooden mullions and large, two-over-two doublehung sash. Above the porte cochere and extending one bay to the south, a broad gable forms the end wall of the main, east-west wing. On the third floor level, the gable is punctuated by a two-bay arcature with square colonettes set on an open balustrade. Beneath the south end of the gable, a projecting rectangular bay on the first floor has rounded corners and tall windows set beneath a machicolated eave and a solid parapet. The four bays on the remainder of the west facade are dominated by a cross gable above the two center bays. Wall fenestration consists of evenly-spaced and vertically aligned, one-over-one doublehung sash set in flat openings, with the exception of the southernmost bay on the first floor, in which there are two closely spaced, round-arched windows, also with one-over-one lights. The two central bays extend above the second story eaves

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to support the cross gable, and are terminated by corner buttresses and a corbel table at the base of the gable. The corbel table is also the spring-line for three arcaded windows, which have twelve -over-one, doublehung sash with transom lights in the tympana. In the apex of the gable are three narrow, arcaded attic windows with fixed glazing.

Since the third principal wing of the mansion projects to the southeast from the ell formed by the other two wings, the elevations which face the lake are very dynamic and irregular. The south end of the north-south wing is composed of a wall with three bays of regularly spaced fenestration with a large, round-arched rear entrance in the west end bay on the first floor. The masonry opening is divided into thirds by framing which defines a single doorway with sidelights beneath a tympanum transom. This rear door is approached by a short flight of steps whose cheek walls are incised with foliate patterns in low relief. Directly to the right of the rear entrance is a square stone chimney, which extends above the main ridge. The gable is set to right of center, and is similar in design to the cross gable on the west facade, with the exception of having double, rather than triple, gable windows.

The southwest elevation which terminates the angled wing is contiguous with the south elevation and consists of round corner turrets separated at their base by a projecting one story glass conservatory. The conservatory extends two bays beyond the main mass, and ends in a five-sided, polygonal bay. The large, one-over-one, doublehung sash are separated by stone mullions at the corners, and stand on a high basement and parapet of quarry-faced ashlar coursing. The hipped roof is composed of metal rafters with glass infill, and is truncated by a roof curb around a flat deck. The flanking turrets have large, regularly grouped windows on each level, and corbelled eaves beneath tall, conical roofs.

The acute angle between the wings terminates in an unusual concave wall. The side elevations of the wings in this area consist of regularly fenestrated surfaces, crowned by cross gables similar to those on the west elevation.

The end (east) elevation of the main wing has a two story, polygonal bay of five sides, with a single large window in each of its segments on each floor. The first floor windows are shaded by a broad veranda which wraps around the bay and is supported by slender stone columns with floral capitals.

The interior of the mansion consists of a basement and three main levels. Some idea of the relative scale of the interior is given by the ceiling heights, which are eight, fourteen, eleven, and ten feet, from the basement through third levels, respectively.

Several general features should also be noted. All the rooms contain hardwood woodwork, most of which is intact and in excellent condition. Many walls were covered with fabric, which still remains, although faded. All the fireplaces in the building are mock hearths, with gas-fed porcelain logs and mosaic tile surrounds. With the exception of the one in the foyer, all the mantels are surmounted by mirrors. The mansion has always been wired for electricity, although the original wiring is no longer in use. Electrical conveniences originally included closet lights activated by jamb switches, and a burglar alarm system activated by pressure sensors beneath the carpets. These alarms were connected to panels in the master bedroom and the local police station. The master bedroom also had a switch panel connected to all interior lighting. A speaking tube and a dumbwaiter connected the kitchen with the third floor billiard room.

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The first floor contained the principal living areas; the foyer, drawing room, library, the "Moorish" sitting room, dining room, solarium, breakfast room, pantry, kitchen, and den. Each reflects a different European style, as decorated by Mandel Brothers of Chicago.

The second floor was comprised of the chambers, bathrooms, and guest rooms, as well as the servants' quarters.

Family entertainment and social functions were accommodated by the third floor, which included Mrs. Bass' library, the billiard room, card room, and a formal ballroom.

The ballroom is a particularly unusual space, since its polygonal form incorporates the intersection of the angled wing with the main mass, as well as the outward projections of a larger dormer on the west, and the paired towers on the southeast. The ceiling tapers upward to form pendentives at the base of a large lantern which is glazed with stained glass panels and painted with frescoes of the Moses beneath a summer sky.

Several minor changes were effected when the Order of St. Francis bought the mansion in 1944. The north porch was enclosed to create a reception room. The original basement stair was eliminated, and a long corridor from the foyer to the kitchen was created. In the kitchen, the bay on the south wall was enclosed, thereby isolating the original pantry and washing areas.

The importance of these alterations is diminished by the extent to which the original finishes have been maintained, particularly since the mansion initially housed all functions of the college. The Order has displayed an amazing reticence to make alterations, despite situations which seemingly demanded adaptive measures. Fortunately, the building evolved towards a single use as the campus grew; today the building houses the 65,000 volumes of the St. Francis College Library.

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Wilkins, Cleo Goff. Index to the Wallace A. Brice History of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Fort Wayne: Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society, 1957.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

"'Brookside' in Ruins." Fort Wayne News. February 11, 1902.

"Brookside Mansion to Rise from Ashes." Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette. February 12, 1902.

"John H. Bass." Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette. December 18, 1922

"John H. Bass Dies Sunday." Fort Wayne Sentinel. December 18, 1922.

"Social Realms' The Hon. and Mrs. J. H. Bass Receive Their Friends." Fort Wayne Morning Journal. December 11, 1890.

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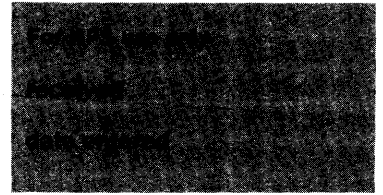
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"One Hundred Years of Service." Old Fort News (Vol. 38, No. 3, 1975).
Published by the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society.

"Bass and Allied Families." Americana Illustrated (Vol. XIX, No. 2, 1925).
Published by the American Historical Society, Inc., New York. The
section on John H. Bass appears on pp. 211-215.

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Dedicated area to include land within a line drawn parallel with the sides of the building twenty-five (25) feet from the Library on the east, north, west, and south sides. This includes the house, only. Such area to be rectangular in shape for simplicity.