United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only FEB I 5 1984 received date entered

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

1. Name

historic	Thomas Moore	House			-		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
and/or common	Moore/Christ	- tian House					
2. Loca	ation						
street & number	4200 Brookvi	ille R oa d.			N/A_ no	t for public	ation
city, town	Indianapolis	5	N/A vicinity of	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		• :	<u></u>
state	Indiana	code	018 county	Marion		code	097
3. Clas	sificatio	n					
Category district X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisiti in process being consid N/A	ion Ac	atus _ occupied _ unoccupied _ work in progress cessible _ yes: restricted _ yes: unrestricted _ no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainmen government industrial military	nt	_ museum _ park _ private re: _ religious _ scientific _ transporta _ other:	
4. Own	er of Pro	perty					
name street & number	James M. and 4200 Brookvi		A. O'Donnell				
city, town	Indianapolis	s N	/Avicinity of	st	ate Indi	ana 4	6201
5. Loca	ation of L	.egal I	Descripti	on			
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	Marion Co	unty Recorder'	s Office			
street & number		City-Coun	ty Building, 2	00 E. Washington	Street		
city, town		Indianapo	lis	st	ate India	na 4	6204
6. Rep	resentati	ion in	Existing	Surveys			
title	N/A	i	has this pr	operty been determine	ed eligible?	yes	_X_ no
date				federal	_ state	_ county _	local
depository for su	rvey records	I/A					
city, town			,	st	ate		

7. Description

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Moore-Christian House is a two-story home of Italianate design located on the east side of Indianapolis. Constructed of brick with a stone foundation, the building has an Lshaped plan and a modified hip roof line. Originally part of a large farm complex, the house now sits on a large lot on the west bank of Pleasant Run.

The home's main (south) facade is five bays wide and features a symmetrical design. The center bay on the ground floor contains the main entry, which features a panel door flanked by sidelights and surmounted by a rectangular transom. This entryway is sheltered by a gabled awning roof supported by large, ornate brackets. This awning has a raked cornice with dentils and features elaborate scrollsawn detailing in the gable area and the supporting brackets. The other four bays on the ground floor contain large, segmental-arched window openings with limestone sills. On the second floor each bay contains a slightly smaller, segmental-arched window opening of a plain wide architrave, a dentiled frieze, and a cyma recta cornice. Large, scrolled brackets used in pairs are positioned on the architrave between the bays. The hipped roof features an offset chimney at either end of the facade.

The other facades of the house lack the symmetry of the main facade, while still employing the classical entablature and the segmental-arched window openings. The rear of the house originally featured a two story, L-shaped porch, but this was removed and the porch area was developed into living space sometime in the 1940's. The smaller, rectangular windows on the rear of the house were installed at this time. Of special interest is the dinner bell, hung under the eaves on the north facade. Installed when the house was constructed, this bell is protected from the weather by an extension of the roof and was used to call the farmworkers at mealtime.

The interior of the house originally featured eight fireplaces; of these, two are still in working order and retain their original wood boxes and mantelpieces. Most of the other woodwork in the house, including the staircase and the pedimented window trim, is original. Interior walls throughout the house are of brick and measure 18" thick.

Although this home was originally part of a large farm, most of the land was sold off early in the 20th century when the City of Indianapolis expanded to engulf the area. A parcel of land slightly less than one acre was retained with this structure. None of the original outbuildings remain in existence; the only other structure on the property is a frame garage built approximately 30 years ago.

Research as to the construction date of this home has been inconclusive. Thomas Moore's 1837 will mentions a "new dwelling house" still under construction on the property, but it is unclear whether the existing house is actually the same structure or a later home. One source indicates that the structure mentioned in the will was a larger, six bedroom home, but the validity of this source is questionable. Another source, published in 1947, states that this home was built in 1841, but this source is undocumented. Because of the rural nature of the area in the mid-19th century, legal documents of the period are too vague to be of any help. Stylistically, the home's main facade shows both Italianate and Federal style traits, while the pedimented door casings and classical fireplace surrounds suggest a Greek Revival influence. Because of this ambiguity, no accurate estimate of the home's construction date is possible at this time.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—C	heck and justify below		
prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 X 1800–1899 1900–	archeology-prehistoric	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	Iandscape architectur Iaw Iiterature Iiterature Iiterature Iiterature Iiterature Iiterature Iiterature Iiterature Iiterature Iiterature IIII IIIII IIIII IIIII IIIII IIIII IIII	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)

Specific dates Unknown

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (Income purpose)

The Moore-Christian House is significant for its architecture and for its association with one of Indianapolis' most prominent early families. Originally part of a large livestock farm, the house now sits on a large lot near a city park created from part of the original pasture land. The home's main facade, which features a mixture of Italianate and Queen Anne-style design elements, is protected by an easement held by Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana.

Thomas Moore, an Irish immigrant, came to Indianapolis from Zanesville, Ohio, in 1831, while helping to build the National Road. He obtained a government land grant for a large parcel east of Indianapolis and established a livestock farm. He became quite successful in this enterprise, and by the time of his death in 1838, he was considered one of the most prominent citizens of the nascent community. His son, also named Thomas, inherited the property and continued the operation of the farm, becoming widely known for the excellent carriage horses and shorthorn cattle he raised.

Wilmer F. Christian, a carpenter from Maryland, inherited the farm through his marriage to Margaret Moore, the original owner's granddaughter. He continued to operate the farm, but also won local renown as a contractor and builder. His firm erected many of the city's commercial structures, and is perhaps best remembered for its role in constructing the When Building and the Benjamin Harrison Home (National Historic Landmark, 1964). Christian handed down ownership of the land to his son, Dr. Wilmer Christian, a prominent local physician. Christian spent 13 years in the practice of medicine before embarking on a new career in insurance. Active in local politics, he held several city and state appointed offices. In 1921, as the city of Indianapolis was expanding to surround the Moore farm, Christian donated a 40-acre parcel of this land to the city for use as a park. That park is appropriately known as Christian Park. Christian's untimely death in an automobile accident in 1923 was reported on the front page of Indianapolis newspapers.

The Moore-Christian Home is Italianate in design, and is considered to be one of the most handsome homes in the area. The symmetrical main facade features a cornice decorated with dentils and elaborate brackets. The main entry's awning roof, a later addition, has intricate Queen Anne-style trim. Since 1979, the exterior of this house has been protected by a facade easement held by Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, Inc., a private, non-profit preservation organization.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Indianapolis Senti		anaputis nen ut pro	gress, Indianapolis: The				
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me/title John R. Gra	y/James O'Donnell						
			August 30, 1979				
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2. State His	toric Prese	rvation Offi	cer Certification				
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Chief of Registration							

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