Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:	
	Tennessee
COUNTY	:
	Davidson
	FOR NPS USE ONLY

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	11.	NAME common: Nashville (Children's Mu	ıseum			1971 -1					
	2.	Lindsley Hall, University of Nashville 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: 724 Second Avenue, S. CITY OR TOWN:										
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Children's Museum building itself is a very interesting structure. The building is made of a substantial grey limestone and has a Gothic influence in the architecture.

The building is symmetrical in plan and massing with a central block and identical wings on either side. The roof of the central block has a slight pitch but the remainder of the structure has a flat roof with a parapet around the entire structure. There are buttresses of slight projection at regular intervals around the structure. A large lancet window is located in the center of the central block with wood tracery forming twin arches within the arch of the window. The other windows are rectangular in shape.

When the building was constructed in 1853 it was a central building for the University of Nashville, and it was planned to have a chapel wing, museum wing, and tower which were never completed. The exterior remains the same as it was built except for an addition which was added in the early 1960's as a children's theater.

The interior of the building has undergone many changes as it has had many uses. Today it contains at least 9 halls for use in display by the museum. The structure is still very sound in construction with the mill sawn 3 x 15's that were used. The stone on the exterior has weathered little as the architect had all the stones laid on their natural beds.

In this Gothic building the architect was able to get unity, balance, proportion, scale and rhythm and do it in a very permanent way.



PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	🔀 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicat	le and Known)	1853	J
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch.	eck One or More as Approp	oriate)	
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Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
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. □ Art,	Architecture	Social/Human-	1071
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Conservation	: Music	Transportation	NATION

The building that today houses the Children's Museum has been vitally important to the Nashville area in the <u>field</u> of education since its construction in 1853. It has been used for some educational aspect from the beginning except for a brief time when the Union Army took over the campus to serve as a hospital in 1862 and again from 1925-1945 when it was used for an armory for the State Guard. Secondly, Adolphus Heiman, Architect for the structure was one of four practicing architects in Nashville in 1845 and is said to have submitted plans for the Tennessee State Capitol

In 1852 Dr. John Berrien Lindsley, president of the University of Nashville, asked the architect to design and erect a new and splendid building for the University of Nashville. This building was to be a symbol of learning. The University used this as the Central Hall until 1862 when Union soldiers took over the campus. Between 1867 and 1905 the building housed Montgomery Bell Academy, the State Normal College, and Peabody Normal College. Peabody College for Teachers occupied the building in 1905. The building served as Vanderbilt University's medical school from 1914 to 1925, then as an Armory for the State Guard and as a public health center. The Children's Museum was founded in this building in 1945 and has served thousands since that time. The building is located in a low income area and serves many local children that would otherwise not have these opportunities. A new museum is in the near future and this building will again be vacated. it can continue to serve some aspect of an educational program.

This building is also significant because of its architect, Adolphus Heiman, one of the outstanding Nashville architects of a century ago. Heiman was born in Potsdam, Prussia, in 1809. His father was the superintendent of Sans Souci, the summer palace of the Kings of Prussia. He traveled over Italy and brought to Adolphus many books on architecture from Venice, Florence and Rome and these undoubtedly inspired the young man. In Europe he learned the trade of stone cutter and in 1834 came to America. Bv 1841 Heiman had his own business in Nashville and by 1846 he was a property owner. Heiman took part in the Mexican War in 1846. the outbreak of the Civil War he was elected Colonel of the Tenth Tennessee Regiment and served with distinction until he died on November 16, 1862, in Jackson, Mississippi.

MAJOR	BIBLIOGRAPHICAL R	EFERENCES								
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STATE	
Tennessee	
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FOR NPS USE ONL	Υ
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(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (cont.)

The Children's Museum is one of his outstanding monuments and the original part of Central State Hospital which he designed, was considered a model institution in its day and attracted nation-wide recognition. Adolphus Heiman will be remembered as one of the leading architects in Nashville and additional buildings will likely be attributed to him as greater architectural research is done.

