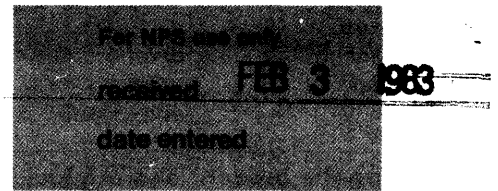


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Koester/Patberg House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 504 Herndon Drive N/A not for publication

city, town Evansville N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Indiana code 018 county Vanderburgh code 163

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"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name David Dyer

street & number 504 Herndon Drive

city, town Evansville N/A vicinity of state Indiana

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Civic Center

city, town Evansville state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date June, 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 two-story Koester/Patberg residence contrasts markedly with its 20th century surroundings of low-scale, pre- and post-World War II housing development. Erected in 1873-74 as a country residence for wholesale grocer Louis Koester, the house is almost two miles northeast of the city center. Since 1940, the once-rural context has been supplanted by tract developments, highways, shopping centers, and the like.

The basic plan entails a long (about 66 feet) and narrow (26 feet) two-story massing of common brick covered by a pitched roof which forms end gables. This configurational regularity is broken only by a two-story east-wall projection (2 feet by 18 feet). The gabled front faces Herndon Drive (once a dirt lane) and is three bays wide with a double-leaf corner entrance opening into a lateral stair hall. Period constructional features--limestone lintels and sills and double-hung sashes with two-over-two lights--are in evidence, as are the typical Italianate dressings of eaves underscored by brackets and panel board, windows trimmed with cornice moldings, and a front gable ornamented by a set of small, round-arched windows with stone drip moldings. All windows are still flanked by their original wood-slatted shutters.

Although the constrained massing of the Koester house is more commonly associated with 19th century urban construction than with domestic rural architecture, Evansville architect Henry Mursinna departed from a strictly rectangular plan in his Koester house design and incorporated a two-bay-wide gabled pavilion into the east wall. Italianate trim, including a stone trimmed oculus and sets of flanking paired windows, typical of the style, complement the pavilion. The elaborate treatment of this elevation may have been motivated by Koester's wish to impress travelers on the State Road (now Stringtown Road) 300 yards to the east. The west and north elevations are plain.

Relatively few buildings survive without some change occurring to their original plan. The Koester/Patberg house is no exception. However, alterations have been minimal, and the only discernible exterior change seems to have been the replacement, in about 1920, of the original wooden front porch by the present substantial porch/porte cochere constructed of Rugby brick and concrete.

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

**Specific dates** 1873-74

**Builder/Architect** Henry Mursinna, architect

### Statement of Significance (~~to one paragraph~~)

An association with Louis Koester, one of 19th century Evansville's prominent businessmen, a fine Italianate format conceived by Evansville architect Henry Mursinna and the well-preserved state of the building's original fabric are all factors which contribute to the significance of the Koester/Patberg House.

Louis Koester's life history has yet to be fully investigated, but research indicates that he was one of Evansville's more enterprising businessmen during the last decades of the 19th century. A native of Prussia, he immigrated to the United States in the late 1840s. His rise in local commercial affairs began in 1857 when he and Frederick Korff, also from Prussia, formed the retail grocery concern of Koester and Korff. In 1872, the two men altered their course and entered the wholesale grocery trade. By 1880, the firm was grossing \$100,000 to \$130,000 per year from an operation which embraced not only the Tri-state region but extended into southern and western states, as well. In 1886, Koester and Korff formed the Diamond Coal Mining Company and ventured into deep-shaft mining on land situated a quarter mile to the northeast of the Koester House. This undertaking was coincidental with the ascendance of Evansville's manufacturing industry, the vitality of which partly rested upon coal mined locally. Korff retired from participation in the grocery and mining operations several years later, but Koester remained active in both enterprises until about 1900. The mine, however, continued to be worked throughout the early years of the 20th century.

A year after Koester and Korff established their wholesale grocery business (1872), Koester commissioned local architect Henry Mursinna to design a country residence on a 9½ acre tract of land about a mile north of the city limits which he had owned since 1869. Evansville had five architects at the time, and German-born Mursinna (1827-1909) held the premier position within the ranks of his profession. He had settled in Evansville in about 1859 and over the course of a notable 49-year career produced designs throughout the region which included the John A. Reitz House (National Register, 1973), the William Heilman mansion, Trinity Methodist Church, Trinity Catholic Church and School, and the Huntingburg, Indiana, Town Hall (National Register, 1975). From studying his extant works, it is apparent that Mursinna handled the French and Italianate modes most effectively. While the Koester house lacks the high degree of sophistication embodied in his designs for the high-style Heilman or Reitz buildings, his use of Italianate detail is refined. The Koester design demonstrates his usual thoughtful planning and attention to detail. The plainness of the west wall of the Koester house, the elevation not visible to public view, is a recurrent theme in 19th century Evansville architecture, and suggests a measure of economy in this city heavily populated by frugal Germans.

The preserved status of this 108-year-old residence is owed to the Herman Patberg family and descendants, who owned and occupied the house from 1902 until 1980. While their circa 1920 porch/porte cochere improvement project is distracting, the house is essentially unchanged since it was erected. Its conspicuous presence in this otherwise 20th century neighborhood is remarkable.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Evansville South

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	6	4	5	1	1	7	0	4	2	0	5	4	0	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 house is situated on lot 45 of Patberg Terrace, a replat of lot 29 of Maxwell's Subdivision of (part) Section 17, Township 6, Range 10 West.

### 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 Joan Marchand, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization Department of Metropolitan Development date January 28, 1982

street & number 216 Washington Avenue telephone 812/426-5487

city or town Evansville state Indiana 47713

# 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 J. M. Redman

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 1-21-83

For NPS use only

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

J. M. Redman  
Keeper of the National Register

date 2/1/83

Attest:  
Chief of Registration

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

ATLASES, CITY DIRECTORIES AND HISTORIES

Evansville City Directories, 1858+

Griffing's Atlas of Vanderburgh County, Indiana. Philadelphia: D. J. Lake & Co., 1880; reprint ed., Evansville: Unigraphic Inc., and Friends of Willard Library, 1975.

An Illustrated Plat Book of Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties, Indiana. Evansville: Tillman & Fuller Publishing Co., 1899; reprint ed., Evansville: Unigraphic Inc., and Friends of Willard Library, 1975.

Reflections Upon a Century of Architecture, Evansville, Indiana. Evansville: The Junior League of Evansville, Inc., 1977.

The Industries of Evansville, Indiana--Commercial and Manufacturing Advantages. Evansville: Evansville Board of Trade, 1880.

PICTORIAL SOURCES

The Book of Evansville--Illustrated. Evansville: Business Men's Association, Manufacturer's Association, Furniture Association, 1895.

PUBLIC RECORDS

Vanderburgh County, Indiana. Articles of Association (1913-1969).

Vanderburgh County, Indiana. Deed Indexes and Deeds (c.1816+).

Vanderburgh County, Indiana. Plat Records (1818+).