

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FINAL - No Sig

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Gruenewald House

AND/OR COMMON

Madison County Historic Home

095-015-49040

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

626 North Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Anderson

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th

STATE

Indiana

CODE

018

COUNTY

Madison

CODE

095

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- ☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- ☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- ☐ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☒ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

- ☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Anderson

STREET & NUMBER

120 East 8th Street, P.O. Box 2100

CITY, TOWN

Anderson

VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Madison County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Anderson

STATE

Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Gruenewald House is located at 626 North Main Street, Anderson, Indiana. In 1874 Martin Gruenewald, a local saloon keeper, obtained the deed to the property and completed construction of a house on land which was formerly an Indian burial ground. When Gruenewald bought the structure, only a brick shell existed; the new owner ordered finishing the house in the Italianate and Second Empire modes which were dominate in the 1870's. Although some of the charm has been lost in later alterations, restoration has begun in hopes of returning the well constructed structure to its original state.

The 2 1/2 story detached structure has a rectangular plan (save a bay protrusion which enlivens the south facade). The three bay front facade rests on a foundation of cut stone. Foot thick masonry load bearing walls support the house. The bricks, laid in stretcher bonds, are in excellent condition, and white paint added by a recent owner has been removed in the restoration, revealing the original reddish-orange bricks. Cut stone belt courses below the first and second stories highlight the west front facade while cut stone quoining joins the corners of the structure. Side sloped chimneys grace the south, north, and east facades; the south and north chimneys have triple joined brick stacks capped with three pottery flues, while the east chimney has a double joined brick stack capped with two pottery flues. A simple exterior brick chimney is in the rear of the house. All windows have segmented arches with curved, classically ornamented lintels and plain cut stone jambs and lugsills. The windows are double hung with the exception of two fixed lower front ones. The off-center front entrance has a protruding curved lintel supported by two ornately carved stone brackets. Carved molding on either side of the recessed handsome double doors dominates the otherwise pristine facade. The entrance is reached by a crumbling stoop, which is being restored.

The structure has a slate bell cast mansard roof with hooded dormers. Restoration has removed indiscriminant painting and a later water proofing attempt, and the roof has been returned to much of its original style. The stone eaves consist of a cornice boxed with a plain frieze and brackets; restoration has replaced the few brackets which were missing. Modern drain pipes have been installed and detract slightly from the quoins. A wrought iron cresting which capped the roof was removed at an unknown date.

The interior consists of twelve rooms, which include double parlors on the main floor and three bedrooms on each of the upper floors. Twelve foot ceilings heighten the grandeur of a bygone era as does ornate plaster and woodwork, a sculptured fireplace, and a unique curvilinear staircase.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
— PREHISTORIC	— ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	— COMMUNITY PLANNING	— LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	— RELIGION
— 1400-1499	— ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	— CONSERVATION	— LAW	— SCIENCE
— 1500-1599	— AGRICULTURE	— ECONOMICS	— LITERATURE	— SCULPTURE
— 1600-1699	X — ARCHITECTURE	— EDUCATION	— MILITARY	— SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
— 1700-1799	— ART	— ENGINEERING	— MUSIC	— THEATER
X — 1800-1899	— COMMERCE	— EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	— PHILOSOPHY	— TRANSPORTATION
— 1900-	— COMMUNICATIONS	— INDUSTRY	— POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	— OTHER (SPECIFY)
		— INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1871 - 1874

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Martin Gruenewald House is one of the older houses in the city of Anderson and Madison County. It is a significant example of combined high Victorian Italianate and Second Empire styles with superior stone detailing on the exterior and ornate plaster and woodwork in the interior. The structure is representative of styles which were popular in the Midwest in the last half of the nineteenth century.

The land on which the house rests is rich in local history. According to local tradition it was the site of part of an Indian burial ground in the village of Chief Anderson, a Delaware Indian. On October 10, 1823, William Conner, a celebrated Hoosier pioneer and son-in-law of Chief Anderson, obtained a government patent for land designated as lot #3 in the original plat of Anderson, Indiana. Anderson's founder, John Berry, purchased the land from Conner in 1827. The property changed hands several times before Gruenewald bought it at a tax sale in 1874; along with the land he acquired a brick shell left by the two previous owners who had run into financial trouble. Gruenewald had the brick shell finished in the Italianate and Second Empire styles. The architectural interest of the house is enhanced by a curving staircase and front double doors which cost Gruenewald \$500.00.

Gruenewald's personal history illustrates the rapid changing financial fortunes during America's commercial development of the late nineteenth century and especially during Anderson's gas boom of the 1880's.

Born in Germany in 1839, Gruenewald arrived in America in 1861 with the equivalent of \$4.00 in his pocket. He drifted west, working on farms, a brewery, a meat packing house, and a Mississippi River steamboat. He settled in Anderson in 1868 with his young bride, also of German origin and opened a saloon which became a popular spot in the little town. Business reverses in 1883 and advice from church friends induced him to give up his saloon. For a year and a half he tried unsuccessfully to recoup his investments by operating a butcher shop. Finally he opened a new saloon which proved profitable. Gruenewald then made a timely investment in a property on the Anderson courthouse square. Discovery of natural gas in the area in 1887 set off a boom which drove up land values; Gruenewald was able to sell his courthouse square property at a handsome profit. He retired in active business life in 1888 and lived comfortably until his death in 1933. Family members recall Gruenewald's gratitude for the many opportunities in his adopted country and his staunch patriotism.

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After Gruenewald's death the property changed hands several times before 1974 when it was acquired by the City of Anderson.

The property recalls the presence of the Delawares in Indiana. The house exhibits clearly the restrained symmetry of the Italianate mode with the subtle addition of the more ornate, mansardian, Second Empire style. The house is a monument to Gruenewald and other immigrants who found prosperity in America; it is a symbol of the rapidly changing business fortunes during the commercial development of Anderson and America in the second half of the nineteenth century.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Sequi Commemorative Plate Highlights Historical Landmarks", The Anderson Herald,
October 28, 1973
Deed Records, Madison County Courthouse, 1823, 1827, 1837, 1863, 1874
Forkner, John L., and Byron H. Dyson. Historical Sketches and Reminiscences of Madison
County, Indiana. Logansport, Indiana: Wilson Humphreys & Co., 1897.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 612690 4440490
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dr. Harold Gallagher, Ed. D.

ORGANIZATION

Madison County Historic Home Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

120 East 8th Street, P.O. Box 2100

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Anderson

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

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Helm, J.B. History of Madison County, Indiana. Chicago: Kingman Brothers, 1880.

Anderson Daily Bulletin, 1933. "Anderson's Earlier Days Recalled by Gruenewald,"
June, 1933; "Old Resident of Anderson Died Monday," November 30, 1933.