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Historic American Building Survey

XX FEDERAL _STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

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X ORIGINAL SITE

__MOVED DATE__

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Constructed in the mid-nineteenth century, the Bates-Hendricks House was altered several times. It is largely Italianate in design with spacious, high-ceilinged rooms which provided the ostentation that its Victorian owners required.

The L-shape plan of the house is the result of several additions to the original structure. The two-story main block has common bond brick walls resting on a stone foundation; a brick tower with a brick, bellcast mansard roof rises two stories above the main block. The various sections have gable roofs and the main south and east portions have cornices with double brackets. Wooden Doric columns support porches on the east and south elevations. Windows have wooden shutters, stone lugsills, and radiating voussoirs.

The east front has five bays on lower and upper stories with an entrance in the tower in the center. There is a segmented glass transom over the main entrance. The tower's third level has two windows while the fourth level has a single window on each of the four sides.

The eastern portion of the south facade features three bays and a wooden porch with Doric columns. The entrance in the center bay features an arched glass transom with side lights. The first addition has one window above a wooden sun porch with a modern asphalt shingle roof. The second service addition has one bay above and two below. There are three chimneys in the south portion of the house; one in each of the two service additions and one in the main section.

Although there is some debate over which section of the house is the oldest, the best evidence indicates that the southeast Italianate unit with a service addition to the west was constucted first about 1860 by Hervey Bates, Sr. An exterior stairway on the western wall provided access to the room above the kitchen area. The main portion of the house consisted of a simple central hall plan of two stories with one room on each side of the lower and upper halls.

About 1865 Thomas A. Hendricks added the tower and north wing. A chimney originally in the eastern section of the north wall was altered so that the flue could be carried up through the tower roof. Porches were constructed in front of the new east facade. A straight-run stair replaced the original turning main stairway.

Some time about 1875 two rooms were added to the west end of the service area. This addition closed in the west exterior stairway.

At an unknown date, a bathroom and closet were added on the second floor at the west end of the north bedroom. A window in the living room and one in the north bedroom have been bricked in. While six of the nine original fireplaces remain, steam heat has been added. About 1928 fretwork on the porches was removed and replaced by the Doric columns.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	XLAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	Xarchitecture	EDUCATION	MILITARY	X SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X_1800-1899	Xcommerce	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	X-POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES C 1860, 1865, 1875

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bates-Hendricks House represents two popular styles of architecture in the midnineteenth century. The main south and east sections with their arched windows, gable roofs, and bracket cornices suggest an Italianate influence. The tower's mansard roof gives a second empire impression. The house is significant because it is one of the few remaining residences in Indianapolis representing these nineteenth century styles.

The successive nineteenth-century owners were men of historical importance in the commercial and political development of Indianapolis. One of the owners was Thomas A. Hendricks, senator, and vice-president, was a factor in national politics.

From 1835 to 1850 Bethuel F. Morris owned the land that the Bates-Hendricks House now occupies. Morris had come to Indianapolis in the early 1820's and was active in public affairs from the time of his arrival. He helped establish the Indianapolis militia in 1826 and the Indiana Historical Society in 1830. He was important in the First and Second Presbyterian Churches and favored causes such as temperance and Sunday schools. From 1843 to 1845 he was cashier of the first Indianapolis bank ((a branch of the State Bank of Indiana). In 1850 Morris platted and sold twenty acres to Hervey Bates, Sr.

Although some claim that Morris erected the first portion of the Bates-Hendricks House (the extreme western portion), city directories, deeds, and tax records indicate that the first portion of the structure was constructed for Bates about 1860.

Also an early Indianapolis settler, Bates came to the town in 1822 as Marion County sheriff. Born at Fort Washington (Cincinnati) in 1795, Bates came to Indiana as a young man. Although he served as county sheriff and town clerk (1833-35), his greatest impact was on the city's business development. Primarily a merchant, he owned several business buildings in Indianapolis and had a sizeable share in the Bates House (1852), which was the city's most elegant hotels in the mid-nineteenth century. As president of the Indianapolis branch of the State Bank of Indiana, he followed policies which encouraged business development. He helped establish the city's first insurance company, railroad, and light and coke company.

In 1861 Bates deeded the house to his son, Hervey Bates, Jr., who was active in the Indianapolis business community in the nineteenth century. In 1865 the son sold the property to Thomas A. Hendricks.

Hendricks was already a figure in state and national politics when he purchased and enlarged the Bates house. Hendricks was born in Ohio and moved with his parents to Madison, Indiana. After graduation from Hanover College in 1841, he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1843. After serving in state government as a representative

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached continuation sheet.

10 GEOGRAPH	ICAL DATA	SWITTERS AND EASTERS OF CHARLES AND AREA OF THE STATE OF T	ned beritanisten ein Sterut Harvella kom held sach potentin betrat in beritaniste sie bestättig voor en die dem Sond sach	OF THE STREET OF THE PROPERTY
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Form No 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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(1848), senator (1849), and a delegate to the state constitutional convention in 1851, he was elected as a Democrat to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1850 and 1852. He was Commissioner of the General Land Office from 1855 to 1859. In 1860 he was the unsuccessful Democratic candidate for governor. Although his election as U.S. Senator in 1863 resulted in part from the increase in anti-war feelings in Indiana, Hendricks supported the war effort in the Congress. After the war he opposed Republican reconstruction, contending that the southern states had never been out of the Union. It was during this period that he enlarged the Bates-Hendricks House.

Although he served only one term in the Senate, his political career was not finished. In 1872 he was elected governor and in 1876 the Democrats nominated him as Samuel J. Tilden's running mate. The vice-presidency eluded him when the Electoral Commission awarded the disputed electorial votes to Rutherford B. Hayes. Eight years later Hendricks was elected as Grover Cleveland's vice-president and served until his death on November 25, 1885.

After passing through several hands, the Bates-Hendricks House was purchased by John Coburn in 1879. He lived in the house until his death in 1908. He was known in Indiana as a Civil War general and congressman. Born and educated in Indianapolis, he attended public schools and graduated from Wabash College in 1846. He was admitted to the bar in 1849, and was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives the next year. He resigned as judge of the court of common pleas to join the Indiana Volunteer Infantry. After a brief term as judge of the circuit court of Indiana, General Coburn served as a congressman from 1867 to 1875. He was out of Indiana from 1884 to 1885 to serve as a justice of the supreme court of Montana territory. Coburn returned to Indianapolis and resumed his law practice. During the next years, he was active in the movement to save and improve Garfield Park for the citizens of Indianapolis.

Since 1909 the Bates-Hendricks House has passed through a succession of private owners. The present owner is interested in preservation of the building and opens it to individuals upon appointment.

The nineteenth-century owners of the Bates-Hendricks House were responsible for important developments in commerce, politics and government. These associations combine with the building's architectural merit to make it an Indianapolis landmark.

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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