United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

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Type all entries—comp	lete applicable se	ctions			
1. Name					
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and/or common			and fet	and the same single	The Tan London took 1
2. Location	1				
street & number 29 Eas	st McCarty Stre	eet		There's constant of	not for publication
city, town Indianapo	lis	vicinity	y of	congressional district	6th
state Indiana	code	0018	county	Marion	code 097
3. Classific	ation		galy).	t yrear ero no doel I yrlian saant-ynar	
object in	blic vate	Status occupied unoccupied work in pro Accessible yes: restric yes: unrest no	gress	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation x other: Vacant
4. Owner o	f Propert	у			
name Phillip L. and	l Cynthia J. Pi	ime.			
resident of the same of the	ghland Manor Co		Drive	Jamyaz tholl Labada	sub 30 mularisan
city, town Indianapol	lis	vicinity	of	state I	ndiana
5. Location	of Legal	Descri	ptic	on	
sourthouse registry of de	ode etc. Office	of the Center	er Tow	nship Recorder, Mar	ion County
		1100.1002 08	or row	nonip Recorder, That	1011 Country
street & number 1321 (Iding		Marin de la Cesto (action)	orch sica formaria
city, town Indianapoli					ndiana
6. Represe	ntation in	n Existi	ng S	Surveys	
title 1977 Survey of	Marion County	has t	his prop	perty been determined ele	gible?yes _X_no
date 1977				federalstate	_x_countyloca
depository for survey reco	rds Indianapol	is Historic	Prese	rvation Commission	
city.town 1842 City-	-County Buildir	g. Indianan	olis.	state T	ndiana 46204

7. Description

Condition excellent good _X fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one unaltered _x_ altered	Check one _X_ original site moved date
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The August Sommer House is located south of downtown Indianapolis in what was one of Indianapolis' largest German communities. The area is now one of mixed uses. One block to the west is a commercial strip along South Meridian, with several quite old commercial structures. To the east and south is part of the modern expressway system, which is responsible for the loss of most of the area's historic fabric. Just beyond the freeway entrance to the east is the Eli Lilly & Company pharmaceutical company.

The house itself faces north on McCarty Street. It is the only remaining residence facing this block of McCarty, with a parking lot to the east and commercial structures and parking lots to the west and north. Behind the house on the south is a small residential enclave, remnants of what was once a neighborhood. These structures are by and large working class housing, in a run-down condition.

In this setting, the Sommer House, a classic example of the Italianate style, stands out. The main block of the two-story painted brick house has projections on both sides, and a two-bay by two-bay block on the rear, giving it a lopsided Latin-cross floor plan. The house foundation is rock-faced ashlar limestone, which is capped by a dressed stone water table.

The main (north) facade is three bays in width, with the recessed main entry located in the westernmost bay. A second entrance is located in the western projecting bay and also faces McCarty Street. A wooden porch with cut-work detail extends from this entrance to the front of the house. The original porch floor and entrances steps have recently been replaced with concrete.

All openings on the house are segmentally arched, with the exception of an oval window which lights the interior staircase on the west side. Openings on the McCarty Street side also feature arched stone window trim with keystones. All windows are one over one double-hung sash. Both entrance doors, with paneled base and single light, are original. The fenestration of the second floor repeats that of the first on all elevations.

Attic story windows are located above each lower level opening, each of them flanked by brackets.

A continuous stone sill joins all of these windows. There are brackets at each corner of the roof and spaced along the north, east, and west sides of the main block. Above the bracketed eaves is a decked hipped roof.

At the rear of the house is a one-story hipped roof portion. The southwest corner is a porch area, formerly enclosed with lattice work. On the east side of this portion is a one-story shed-roof wood addition which is not original to the house. A wrought-iron fence which was once located on the property line has been stored against the west side of the house.

All of the original detailing remains on the interior; however, all of the woodwork has been painted. In the entrance hall, there is a curved staircase with turned balusters, paneled octagonal newel post and carved work along the risers.

8. Significance

Periodprehistoric1400–14991500–15991600–16991700–17991800–18991900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture _X architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	landscape architectur law literature military music philosophy politics/government	e religion science sculptureX social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1880	Builder/Architect Unknown	own	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The August Sommer House is locally significant for its architecture and for the builder's social/humanitarian activities.

The Sommer House is a classic Italianate structure, and certainly the most substantial and prominent residence remaining in the area. Little remains of the once large German area, through which a complex of expressways has been cut.

August Sommer(1837-1916), himself one of many German immigrants who settled in Indianapolis, came to the city before the Civil War, worked as a drayman, and eventually rose to prominence in the German community. He was one of the founders of the German Protestant Orphan Asylum, established in 1867, and later served as a member of the board of directors and as a trustee of this institution.

Sommer and his growing family occupied several wood frame houses before moving into a substantial brick home at 85 (727) Union Street sometime prior to 1877. In 1880 he had this house built, a statement of his success. Sommer occupied the home until his death in 1916. All but one of his children lived in this house until their father's death. At that time the house passed into the hands of his daughter, Emma. The home did not pass out of family ownership until her death in 1957.

Currently, the home is being restored to its original condition. The garden will contain a memorial to John Muir, who lived nearby for a short time in a house that was removed by the expressway project.

9. Major Bibliographical Re	ferences
Jacob Piatt Dunn, Greater Indianapolis (2 vol	umes, Chicago, The Lewis Publishing Company
1910). I, 202-16 Frances H. Ellis, "Historical Account of Germ Indianapolis, 1869-1919," <u>Indiana Magazi</u> 1954), 119-138, 257-276, 357-380.	an Instruction in the Public Schools of ne of History, X (June, September, December (See Continuation Sheet)
10. Geographical Data	200 A
Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre Quadrangle name Indianapolis West UMT References	Quadrangle scale 1:24,000
A 1 16 5 7 12 0 18 10 4 14 0 11 8 13 10 Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
	P
Verbal boundary description and justification The nor Subdivision of Outlot 116	thern 120'6" of Lot 3 of McCarty's
List all states and counties for properties overlapping	state or county boundaries
state code cou	nty code
state code cou	nty code
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Cynthia Prime (Owner)/Michael F.	Crowe (IHPC Historian)
organization Property Owner	date 10-23-78
street & number 29 Highland Manor Court, North D	rive telephone 317/255-9461
city or town Indianapolis	state Indiana 46208
12. State Historic Preserva	tion Officer Certification
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:	and an exclusionant of the replace appeals.
national state loca	Biggs Barry Sel Bro-bro - J 19 1- 2 Bed
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the Na 665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the Nation according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Herital State Historic Preservation Officer signature	al Register and certify that it has been evaluated
title Indiana State Historic Preservation Office	r date Oct. 8, 1980
For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the Nation	
Keeper of the National Register	date
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Continuation sheet The August Sommer House

Item number

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To the left of the entry is a parlor with a black marble fireplace. It has a round arch opening with gold incised Eastlake style decoration in the spandrels and on the center cartouche. The mantel shelf has a serpentine profile. The other five fireplaces in the house are wood and are simplified versions of the parlor fireplace in design and profile. In several of the rooms there is an unusual decorative wood shelf with serpentine profile and curved brackets.

The house is currently being renovated.

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received
date entered

Major Bibliographical Continuation sheet References, Sommer House

Item number

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Sulgrove, (B(arry) R., <u>History of Indianapolis and Marion County</u>, <u>Indiana</u> (Philadelphia: L. H. Everts & Co., 1884), P. 383

Indianapolis Architecture (n.p.: Indiana Architectural Foundation, 1975), p. 81