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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

FINAL

OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84

For NPS use only

received

date entered

 Type all entries—complete applicable sections

 1. Name

 historic
 Thomas Moore House

 and/or common
 Moore/Christian House

code

2. Location

street & number 4200 Brookville Road

Indiana

N/A_ not for publication

code

097

city, town Indianapolis N/Avicinity of

state

city, town

te

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	h - dia mangelea
district	public	X occupied	agriculture	museum
X building(s)	X private	unoccupied	commercial	park
structure	both	work in progress	educational	X private residence
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	entertainment	religious
object	in process	X yes: restricted	government	scientific
	being considered	yes: unrestricted	industrial	transportation
	N/A	no	military	other:

county

018

4. Owner of Property

name James M. and Cynthia A. O'Donnell

street & number 4200 Brookville Road

Indianapolis N/A vicir

N/A_vicinity of state

Marion

ate Indiana 46201

46204

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number City-County Building, 200 E. Washington Street

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title	N/A	has this property been determined eligible? yes X_{-} no
date		federal state county local
depository	for survey records N/A	
city, town		state

7. Description

Condition excellent	deteriorated	Check one unaltered	Check one X original site	
X_ good fair	ruins unexposed	X altered	moved date	N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Moore-Christian House is a two-story home of Italianate design located on the east side of Indianapolis. Constructed of brick with a stone foundation, the building has an L-shaped plan and a modified hip roof line. Originally part of a large farm complex, the house now sits on a large lot on the west bank of Pleasant Run.

The home's main (south) facade is five bays wide and features a symmetrical design. The center bay on the ground floor contains the main entry, which features a panel door flanked by sidelights and surmounted by a rectangular transom. This entryway is sheltered by a gabled awning roof supported by large, ornate brackets. This awning has a raked cornice with dentils and features elaborate scrollsawn detailing in the gable area and the supporting brackets. The other four bays on the ground floor contain large, segmental-arched window openings with limestone sills. On the second floor each bay contains a slightly smaller, segmental-arched window opening of a plain wide architrave, a dentiled frieze, and a cyma recta cornice. Large, scrolled brackets used in pairs are positioned on the architrave between the bays. The hipped roof features an offset chimney at either end of the facade.

The other facades of the house lack the symmetry of the main facade, while still employing the classical entablature and the segmental-arched window openings. The rear of the house originally featured a two story, L-shaped porch, but this was removed and the porch area was developed into living space sometime in the 1940's. The smaller, rectangular windows on the rear of the house were installed at this time. Of special interest is the dinner bell, hung under the eaves on the north facade. Installed when the house was constructed, this bell is protected from the weather by an extension of the roof and was used to call the farmworkers at mealtime.

The interior of the house originally featured eight fireplaces; of these, two are still in working order and retain their original wood boxes and mantelpieces. Most of the other woodwork in the house, including the staircase and the pedimented window trim, is original. Interior walls throughout the house are of brick and measure 18" thick.

Although this home was originally part of a large farm, most of the land was sold off early in the 20th century when the City of Indianapolis expanded to engulf the area. A parcel of land slightly less than one acre was retained with this structure. None of the original outbuildings remain in existence; the only other structure on the property is a frame garage built approximately 30 years ago.

Research as to the construction date of this home has been inconclusive. Thomas Moore's 1837 will mentions a "new dwelling house" still under construction on the property, but it is unclear whether the existing house is actually the same structure or a later home. One source indicates that the structure mentioned in the will was a larger, six bedroom home, but the validity of this source is questionable. Another source, published in 1947, states that this home was built in 1841, but this source is undocumented. Because of the rural nature of the area in the mid-19th century, legal documents of the period are too vague to be of any help. Stylistically, the home's main facade shows both Italianate and Federal style traits, while the pedimented door casings and classical fireplace surrounds suggest a Greek Revival influence. Because of this ambiguity, no accurate estimate of the home's construction date is possible at this time.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 X 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art commerce communications		landscape architecture law literature military music philosophy politics government	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
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Specific dates Unknown

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (Margan paragraph)

The Moore-Christian House is significant for its architecture and for its association with one of Indianapolis' most prominent early families. Originally part of a large livestock farm, the house now sits on a large lot near a city park created from part of the original pasture land. The home's main facade, which features a mixture of Italianate and Queen Anne-style design elements, is protected by an easement held by Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana.

Thomas Moore, an Irish immigrant, came to Indianapolis from Zanesville, Ohio, in 1831, while helping to build the National Road. He obtained a government land grant for a large parcel east of Indianapolis and established a livestock farm. He became quite successful in this enterprise, and by the time of his death in 1838, he was considered one of the most prominent citizens of the nascent community. His son, also named Thomas, inherited the property and continued the operation of the farm, becoming widely known for the excellent carriage horses and shorthorn cattle he raised.

Wilmer F. Christian, a carpenter from Maryland, inherited the farm through his marriage to Margaret Moore, the original owner's granddaughter. He continued to operate the farm, but also won local renown as a contractor and builder. His firm erected many of the city's commercial structures, and is perhaps best remembered for its role in constructing the When Building and the Benjamin Harrison Home (National Historic Landmark, 1964). Christian handed down ownership of the land to his son, Dr. Wilmer Christian, a prominent local physician. Christian spent 13 years in the practice of medicine before embarking on a new career in insurance. Active in local politics, he held several city and state appointed offices. In 1921, as the city of Indianapolis was expanding to surround the Moore farm, Christian donated a 40-acre parcel of this land to the city for use as a park. That park is appropriately known as Christian Park. Christian's untimely death in an automobile accident in 1923 was reported on the front page of Indianapolis newspapers.

The Moore-Christian Home is Italianate in design, and is considered to be one of the most handsome homes in the area. The symmetrical main facade features a cornice decorated with dentils and elaborate brackets. The main entry's awning roof, a later addition, has intricate Queen Anne-style trim. Since 1979, the exterior of this house has been protected by a facade easement held by Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, Inc., a private, non-profit preservation organization.

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title	Indiana	State	Historic	Preservation	(off	icer	V

1-4-84 date

For NPS use only

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

date Keeper of the National Register Attest: date

Chief of Registration

