

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received \_\_\_\_\_  
date entered \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 1. Name

historic Graham, Robert C., House

and/or common Mimi's House

## 2. Location

street & number 101 West Maple Street N/A not for publication

city, town Washington N/A vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district

state Indiana code 018 county Daviess code 027

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. David B. Graham

street & number 101 West Maple Street, P.O. Box 391

city, town Washington N/A vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Indiana 47501

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Daviess County Recorder

street & number Court House

city, town Washington state Indiana 47501

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 Kelly-Graham house is a large, Prairie style home located on a five-acre tract on the outskirts of Washington, Indiana. Situated on a low rise, the home is a two story structure with an irregular plan, and is constructed of glazed red brick. It has a low pitched hip roof covered with green Spanish tile, and features wide projecting eaves and copper guttering.

The main entry to the house is situated near the center of the east facade, and is protected by an open brick porch. Attached to this porch is an enclosed porch which stretches across the southern portion of the east facade and continues along the south facade. All porches have mosaic tile floors; the enclosed porch features leaded glass windows with a simple, geometric pattern. French windows are employed on either side of the main entry, while the second floor level of this facade contains large, one-over-one, double-hung windows set in simple rectangular openings with plain stone sills. The latter window style predominates throughout the house.

The north facade of the building features an unusual porte cochere, consisting of a large glass canopy sheltering a small side porch. The canopy is supported at its outer edge by metal hangers projecting from higher up on the facade. The porch, itself, features a rounded arch opening giving access to a twin set of steps leading to the north entry door. Decorative wrought-iron lanterns are mounted on the wall on either side of the canopy.

Unlike the Prairie style exterior, the interior of the house features more traditional design elements. A formal entry hall extends west from the main entry in the east facade. Pocket doors on the north side of this hall lead to the den and library. Both rooms feature fine oak woodwork and fireplaces with oak and tile mantelpieces. The hall, itself, features mahogany woodwork and one of two tapestries installed in the house by Marshall Field and Company in 1912. On the south side of this hall is the spacious (20' x 36') living room, which also features mahogany woodwork and a large fireplace with a tile hearth. Adjacent to the living room is a formal dining room, with a built-in oak sideboard. Other rooms toward the rear of the house include the kitchen, pantry, and servants' dining room.

The main staircase rises from the entry hall to the second floor. The second tapestry installed by Marshall Fields is located on the landing of this staircase. The second floor includes a master bedroom with an area of over 700 square feet, not including the adjacent dressing room, sleeping porch, and private bath. The bath contains an unusual and complicated shower assembly, featuring many separate water jets controlled by eight separate valves. All three family bedrooms on this floor feature fireplaces and cedar-lined closets. Toward the rear of the house are a sewing room and the servants' quarters.

The house has a full basement that was intended to serve as auxiliary living and utility space. It originally included a laundry room, vegetable room, billiard room, and chauffeur's quarters. Because of the sloping nature of the building site, the basement features a grade level entry near the rear of the house. Part of the basement has been remodeled to provide additional bedroom space.

Also located on the property is a two story garage which, like the house, is constructed of a glazed red brick with a Spanish tile roof. The topography of the site made it possible to construct driveways to serve both stories of the structure; thus, vehicles can be stored on both levels.

The house and grounds remain the property of Robert Graham's descendants, who keep the structure in good repair.

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

**Specific dates** 1912

**Builder/Architect** Keith and Company

**Statement of Significance** (~~to be completed~~)

The Kelly-Graham House is significant for its architecture and for its association with a local industrialist who rose to national prominence. The house is an example of the Prairie Style, and as such is unique to the area. From 1918 until 1967 it was also the home of Robert C. Graham, who was a noted automobile manufacturer in the 1920's and 1930's.

The house was built in 1912 for Mr. and Mrs. Matthew D. Kelly, who came to Washington from Chicago. The exterior and floor plan of the structure were designed by the architectural firm of Keith and Company, and reflects the influence of Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie Style on other architects of the period. The interior design was accomplished by Marshall Field and Company, of Chicago, and with few exceptions features traditional design elements similar to those found in homes of the previous two decades. The home remains one of the largest and finest residences in the area, and combines excellent craftsmanship with the highest quality materials.

In 1918, following the divorce of the Kellys, the house was purchased by Robert C. Graham. Graham and two of his brothers had developed a successful glass manufacturing company prior to this time. They sold this company to Owens Illinois Glass Corporation in 1918 and founded the Graham Brothers Truck Company in Evansville, Indiana. In 1926, they purchased the Paige-Detroit Motor Company and began production of the Graham-Paige automobile in Detroit. This activity continued until 1940 when the plant was given over exclusively to the production of defense material. Robert Graham served as executive vice-president of the firm throughout this time period. He also owned extensive farm land holdings in Daviess County, and operated a grain elevator, feed mill, and cheese factory. He later developed the Village of Bal Harbour near Miami Beach, Florida. Robert Graham died in 1967; the house is now occupied by the David Graham family. David Graham is Robert Graham's son and is president of Graham Farms, Inc., and the Graham Cheese Corporation.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Indiana Biography Service, a collection of newspaper clippings available at the Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, Vol. 67, p. 24  
 Washington (Indiana) Times-Herald newspaper, October 4, 1967, p. 1  
 Who Was Who in America, Vol. 4. Chicago: Marquis Who's Who Incorporated, 1968.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 5 acres

Quadrangle name Washington, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see continuation sheet

### 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 Alan Goebes

organization Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology date 6-9-82

street & number 1517 Union Street telephone 317/636-1323

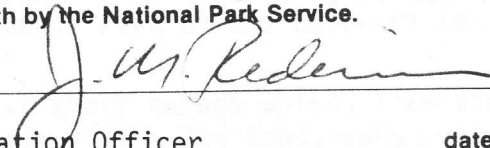
city or town Indianapolis state Indiana

## 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 Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 1-31-83

### 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

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

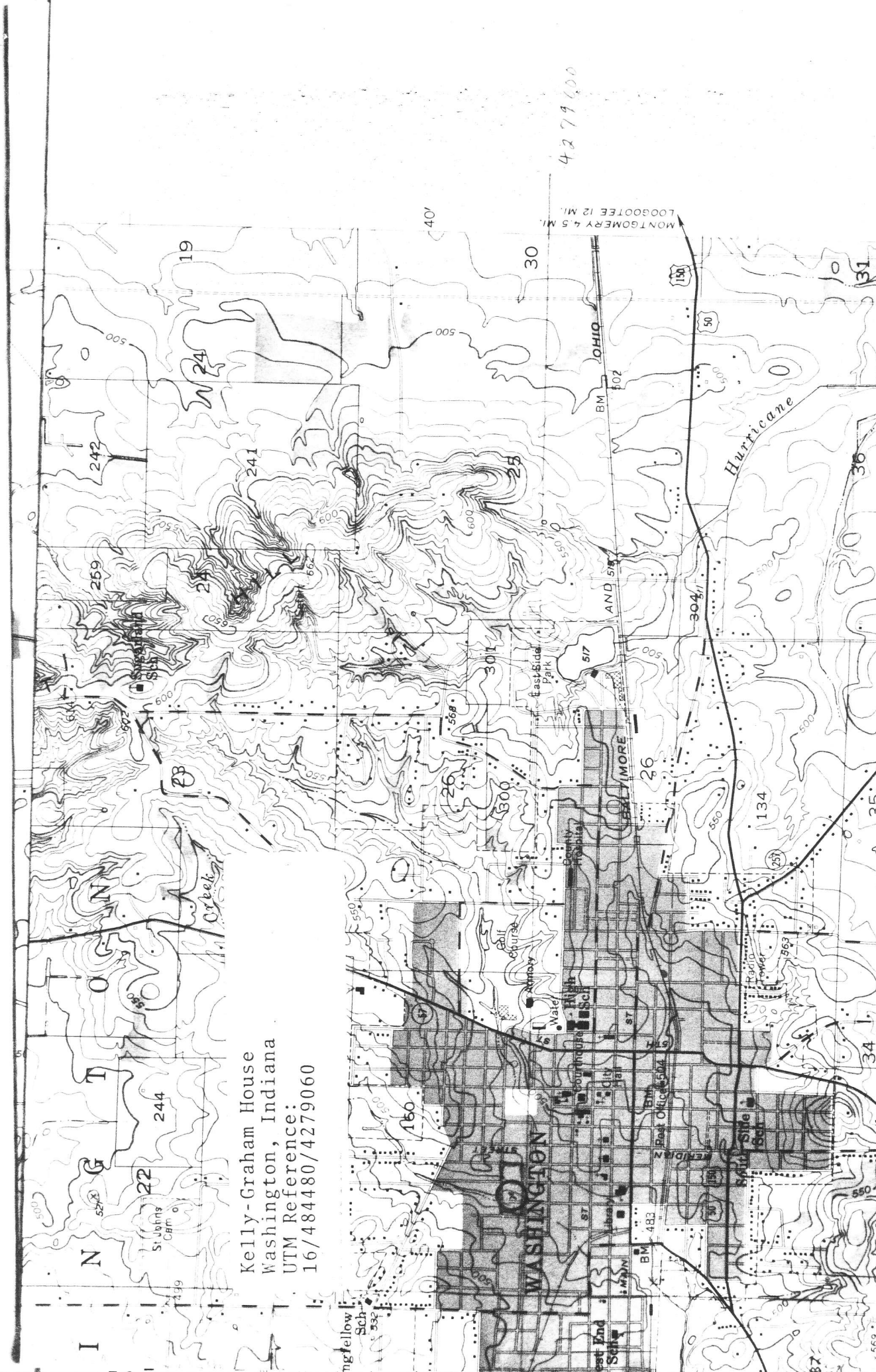
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Continuation sheet Graham House

Item number 10, Ver. Bndry. Desc. Page 1

Lot Numbered 17 in Dr. Peck's Addition to the City of Washington, Indiana, except the following described tract, to-wit: Beginning at the southeast corner thereof, and running North 60 feet; thence West 240 feet; thence South to the south line of said lot; thence East along the south line of said lot to the place of beginning. Also Lot Number 22 in Dr. Peck's Addition.



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