

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

1. Name

historic General German Protestant Orphans Home

and/or common Pleasant Run Children's Home

2. Location

street & number 1404 S. State Street

NA not for publication

city, town Indianapolis NA vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Marion code 097

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name American Health Corp. of Indiana, Inc.

street & number 9011 N. Meridian Street

city, town Indianapolis NA vicinity of state Indiana 46220

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Center Township Tax Assessor's Office

street & number City/County Building, Room 1360 200 E. Washington Street

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana 46204

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Marion County Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Office of the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Comms.

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Pleasant Run Children's Home is located on a large (9.5-acre) site in a residential neighborhood on the near southeast side of Indianapolis. The building is sited with its long axis running north/south, the main facade being parallel to State Street and set back approximately 250 feet. The property's north boundary line follows the curve of Pleasant Run Parkway, a scenic drive developed along the creek in the 1920s which enhances the building's park-like setting. Facing the property on State Street, Cottage Avenue, and Draper Street are small, working-class homes on narrow lots built mainly in the 1920s.

The two-and-a-half-story institutional building is constructed of common bond brick on a foundation of random-sized limestone blocks. Its general massing and division into compositional units, its architectural style and eclectic detailing, and its varying roof forms all contribute towards a visual diminishment of the large scale of the structure (approximately 25,000 gross square feet excluding attic). Designed in accordance with contemporary American architectural trends of the 1870s, the building borrows from traditional German vernacular styles favored by its native German architect, Diedrich A. Bohlen. While the general proportions and basic design principles are within the mainstream of late-19th-century American architecture, such picturesque elements as the jerkin head roofs and fanciful dormers combine to make this building unusual, if not unique, stylistically. Although the building has survived with the majority of its detailing intact, minor alterations have tended to decrease the individualistic qualities of the original design. (Compare Photos 1 and 2.) The original polychromed effect, created by yellow brick banding contrasting with the main orange/red brick, has been diminished by very recent painting of the banding to an orange color.

As originally designed in 1871 and completed in 1872, the building was constructed with an I-shaped plan; that is, the plan terminated in projecting wings to the north and south of the main rectangle. In 1886 a major addition was made to the south side of the building, nearly identically following the original structure in both materials and style. (See A and B of sketch map.) The single greatest effect of this new addition was to skew the symmetrical formality of the original building. The projecting entry pavilion is no longer at the center of the facade, and with the loss of the original south facade, each elevation presents a different design. This actually tends to accentuate the picturesque qualities of the overall design since there is a greater variety of forms.

The one-bay-wide entry pavilion rises a full three stories and terminates in a steeply pitched gable roof projecting at a right angle from the main roof (Photo 3). Brick buttresses with limestone caps rise up along the edges of the pavilion. In what is perhaps the most unusual detail of the building, the decoratively carved bargeboard of the gable is tied to the top of the buttresses by means of a turned brace. The gable's peak has recently been filled in by wood panels carved to resemble the curves of the flanking dormers' bargeboards. Originally the gable exhibited an

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

Specific dates Constructed 1871-72 Builder/Architect Architect: D.A. Bohlen

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The General German Protestant Orphans Home, commonly known as the Pleasant Run Children's Home, is the sole surviving 19th-century building to house an orphanage in the city of Indianapolis. Operated continuously for a period of 110 years in service to orphaned children, the building is associated with one of the oldest and longest-lived humanitarian institutions of the community. Its chief period of significance is the post-Civil War period, during which time a private attempt to deal with the major social problem of orphaned children led to the erection of the building. The Orphans Home is also representative of the contribution of one of the city's most important ethnic groups, the German immigrants. The Germans' desire to preserve their cultural heritage is intricately tied to the history of the building. Finally the architectural significance of the structure is owed in large measure to its native German architect, Diedrich A. Bohlen, one of the most important 19th-century architects to practice in Indianapolis.

Social History

As a result of the numerous casualties of Indiana soldiers during the Civil War, there were many fatherless and orphaned children in Indianapolis in the 1860s. This social problem was of concern to members of the Germania Lodge Number 3 of the American Protestant Society, who in May 1867, accepted an invitation to visit the German General Protestant Orphanage of Cincinnati, Ohio. The impression made upon the visiting men by this institution inspired the idea to organize and build a home for orphaned children in Indianapolis. On August 12, 1867, the "German General Protestant Orphans' Association" was permanently organized with an adopted constitution modeled on its sister organization in Cincinnati.¹

The founding officers were Frederick Thoms, a local cabinet maker, as President; H. Mankedick, a dealer in hardware and cutlery, as Vice President; Frederick Gausepohl, cabinet maker in Thoms' factory, as Secretary; Carl Schmidt, a brewer, as Financial Secretary, and William Schoppenhorst, a grocer, as Treasurer. The 242 men listed as charter members represented a variety of professions including stonemasons, laborers, lawyers, merchants and industrialists. All the founding members except for three men were of German heritage.²

The Association's constitution stated that the orphanage was to receive all poor children of Marion County regardless of heritage or religion who were without parents or whose father or mother had died. The children were to be instructed in German and to use the language during daily activities. All the business matters concerning the orphanage were to be conducted in German as well.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 9.534

Quadrangle name Maywood

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	7	4	3	9	0	4	3	9	9	9	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

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 Mary Ellen Gadski, Architectural Historian, and Mary Toshach, Historian

organization date February 10, 1984

street & number 4431 N. Illinois Street telephone (317) 283-5668

city or town Indianapolis state Indiana 46208

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 4-13-84

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

inverted T brace carved with the same decorative motifs — notched triangles and diamonds — as occur elsewhere along the gables. (See Photo 2.)

The main entrance, reached from grade by a flight of five limestone steps, is set into a limestone enframingent. A single carved floral motif, typical of early 1870s ornamentation, is found at the "keystone" of this stone arch. The existing double doors are not original, but the divided transom set within the segmental arch is. A stone tablet above the entrance is carved with the following inscription in Fraktur lettering: "Allgm. [Allgemeine] Deutsch Prot. [Protestant] Waisenhaus gebaut A. D. 1871." (Translation: General German Protestant Orphanage built A. D. 1871.)

The second-story window of the entry pavilion is typical of those throughout the building. The original wood frame windows were composed of double-hung sash of six-over-six lights with the top lights conforming to the segmental arch opening. (See Photo 2.) When the building underwent a general renovation in the 1970s, these windows were replaced by new aluminum frame windows. Since the ceilings were lowered at this time, panels were placed above the shorter new windows. The contrasting banding used to enliven the facade occurs at all windows as a straight line at sill level and as an arcaded line following the window arch at "impost" level. Louvered shutters seen in late-19th-century photos interrupted the continuous banding. (These shutters were probably not envisioned by architect Bohlen, as they were absent in his presentation drawings of the building. See Bibliography.)

The elevations of the two end walls of the wings are identical at the main facade. The walls rise a full three stories and terminate in jerkin head roofs that extend from the main gable roof (Photo 4). The lower slope of this roof breaks into an unusual flare. The roof's overhang is supported by brackets, and the bargeboard exhibits carving similar to the gables. Stone-capped buttresses rise at the edges of the end walls to the level of the second-story windows' sills. There are triple windows at both the first and second stories, those of the first floor being highlighted by a wide band of contrasting Roman brick in segmental arch form. The third story of both the wings' end walls and the entry pavilion contain double windows and an additional line of banding at the roof line.

Joining the wings' end walls and the entry pavilion are the main east walls of the original building, three bays wide and symmetrical in every respect from basement windows to the attic dormers. The dormers originally contained six-over-six, double-hung sash. The bargeboards of the steeply pitched gables are carved in a Gothic trefoil pattern unlike any other detailing of the building. Finials formerly extended from the peaks of the dormers' gables, but these have disappeared with all other rooftop finials evident in late-19th-century photographs.

The north elevation of the building is completely symmetrical and features a central pavilion very similar to the main entry pavilion (see Photo 5). Narrow, double windows occur at all three stories with a decorative iron balcony below the second floor windows. The gable end has retained its decorative wood brace as once existed at the main facade. To either side of the central pavilion, windows flank the two chimney breasts that project slightly from the main wall. The wide spacing of these eight standard-size windows contrasts strongly with the narrow windows of the central pavilion. The original west chimney of the north elevation has been truncated to its first band with a new section of chimney laid above it. This is the only place in the building where an original section of chimney survives; the other seven tall chimneys, once a distinctive feature of the original building, have all been cut off at roof level.

Presumably the original south elevation once matched the north elevation. The addition of 1886 followed a T plan: The main gable roof of the original building was extended to the south for three bays, at which point the stem of the T continues under a jerkin head roof identical to those of the main facade (Photo 6). Because the southernmost section contains a stair hall, the fenestration of this wall varies from the wing walls of the main elevation. There are no triple windows at the first and second floors, only double windows between the two floors. In all other respects, architect Bohlen repeated his design for the jerkin-headed end walls of the original wings. At the corners of the T, simple shed roofs at first floor level shelter secondary entrances to the building.

The rear (west) elevation of the building was originally quite similar to the main facade with two important exceptions: There was no central pavilion, and two secondary entrances existed under porches at the sides of the wings. The south porch still remains, but sometime between 1898 and 1914, a two-story brick stair tower was built at the location of the north porch (Photo 5). Also at around this same time, a small brick addition was built at the north wing to provide an additional entrance to the basement.

Although the chimneys have been lost and the original slate roof has been replaced by an asphalt shingle roof, the original timber belfry remains despite serious fire damage from an attic fire in the summer of 1983. It rises from an eight-sided, flared base at the ridge of the main gable and the center of the original building (Photo 3). The belvedere is an open frame structure; above the hand rail, the elements appear original, below it, the diagonal members have been altered over the years. The tall octagonal spire was also originally roofed with slate and featured a penant weathervane.

Due to the institutional nature of the building, its interiors were never lavish. The architect's design energies were focused on the exterior for "public consumption." Nonetheless, the interior of the building has lost

much of its original character and finish materials through successive renovations, the most recent one during the 1970s being the most extensive. By and large, the basic plan remains intact with a wide central corridor running north/south and two stair halls off it located at the corridor's juncture with the original wings. The staircases — with turned balusters, heavy newels, and decoratively carved strings — are the most interesting interior architectural features to survive (Photo 7). Other woodwork of note includes surviving door and window surrounds, though much of this original fabric has been removed from the building or damaged by lowered ceiling levels. There is evidence of wainscoting having been removed as well as traces of wall stenciling in the corridor. All mantels from the eight original fireplaces have been removed. In the south addition, the patterned encaustic floor tile in the stair halls and landing is noteworthy.

As a self-supporting institution, the orphanage once had a variety of outbuildings on its site associated with production of much of its own food. Only one 19th-century outbuilding survives today, albeit in much altered form. Approximately 60 feet directly west of the orphanage and parallel to it is a structure built in the 1880s as a combined hall and laundry (C of sketch map). This one-story brick building on a limestone foundation is rectangular in plan with a slate-covered gable roof. All original door and window openings were of segmental arch form. As shown in original drawings, double doors in the east wall (now bricked in) once led to the hall part of the building. The central entry of the three-bay-wide north elevation (Photo 8) led into a washroom, with an ironing room adjacent to it. The gabled porch at this entry is a much later alteration. As would be expected of a utilitarian building of this kind, ornamentation is spare, consisting only of the five carved brackets supporting the roof overhang.

Sometime during the 1920s, a major addition was made to the south end of the hall/laundry (D on sketch map). Designed to house a gymnasium, this new rectangular section was built at a right angle to (and connecting with) the 1880s building. Also one story tall and of brick construction with a slate roof, the gymnasium has uniform rectangular fenestration with fixed industrial steel sash and a central, four-light awning-type window (Photo 9). The exposed rafter ends of the combined two structures lend a unifying element to the building.

Circa 1920 the institution's old brick barn was demolished. The building currently known as the barn (F on sketch map) was built subsequent to this, presumably shortly thereafter. A one-and-a-half-story brick structure, rectangular in plan with a gabled, slate roof, the building has segmental arch door and window openings throughout except for the two garage doors of the east elevation (Photo 10).

There are two minor frame structures of recent origin on the property: the Canteen and the bandstand (E and G on sketch map, respectively.)

Built in 1970 as a recreational annex, the Canteen is a simple frame structure with gabled roof and vertical rough-board siding (Photo 9). The bandstand is located on the same site as its 19th-century predecessor(s) but is built entirely of modern materials. Actually resembling a carport more than a traditional bandstand, the structure is simply a roof with wood supports on a concrete slab.

At one time the property of the General German Protestant Orphanage encompassed as much as 13 acres. (Several acres along the north boundary were sold to the City for construction of Pleasant Run Parkway.) To the west of the main building, the large site provided ample space for the vegetable gardens, orchard, vineyard, and pastures devoted to food production. To the east of the building, the site was landscaped formally with flower beds, shrubbery, and trees in deference to the main approach to the building from State Street with its circular drive. Remains of the 19th-century landscaping are evident in the number of mature trees that exist on the site.

The most distinctive manmade feature of the site is the decorative cast-iron fence that encloses the property on State Street, from the north boundary line to the point where the right-of-way of Cottage Avenue formerly intersected State (Photo 11). The slender fence rails are capped by fleurs-de-lis, the fence posts by pineapples, the symbol of hospitality. A maker's plate at the base of the posts clearly reads: "T. Roch/ Indpls/ Ind." Tobias Roch was a founding member of the Association and the proprietor of an architectural iron works. The fence is assumed to be contemporary with the completion of the building in 1872.

During the years between 1867 and 1871, the Association grew in membership and purchased land surrounding the original lots donated by the Germania Lodge No. 129 of the I.O.O.F. (Interestingly the land was purchased from the three non-German founding members: Nicholas McCarty, William S. Hubbard, and Elijah B. Martindale).⁴ Early in 1871 the building committee members— Henry Mankedick, Henry Helm, a mason, and Frederick Ruschhaupt, President of the Eagle Machine Works Company— consulted with architect D. A. Bohlen, one of the founding members of the Association. In March of the same year the new building's foundation was begun and the cornerstone was laid on May 28. By February 1872, the roof was enclosed and the building was completed in the fall. During the construction period, the Women's Association of the German Protestant Orphans Home, which was formed in October 1870, held many benefits to raise money for the new building. The City Council and the County Commissioners each donated \$2,000 to the Association's building fund. Notwithstanding contributions, the \$25,000 total construction cost represented a considerable expenditure on the part of this new organization of civic-minded men.⁷

In October 1872 the first houseparents, Mr. and Mrs Telschow, were appointed,⁸ and on January 5, 1873, the first three children were admitted to the home. In the following years the orphanage operated as a self-sufficient and self-supporting institution. The grounds included a large orchard and vegetable garden which were tended by the children and the hired assistants. There was also a bakery, and the orphanage raised chickens and maintained a few dairy cows and other livestock to provide additional staples. The children all shared in the daily chores of maintaining the institution,⁹ and in the case of the older children, in caring for the younger ones.

One major fete was held yearly to encourage donations for the Home and to increase public interest. The Orphan's Feast Day was usually held in the late summer and attracted crowds of up to 10,000. People from all parts of the city and county came to view the grounds and the building and to participate in the festivities of the day which included bands, and numerous game booths. This fete continued to be held until 1948.¹⁰ Thus, for over 70 years, the building was associated with a traditional event of some local importance.

The 1880s were years of growth for the institution. On October 14, 1886 there was a fire at the orphanage that resulted in the death of one child. During an emergency meeting two days later, the Association decided to rebuild the damaged portion of the building (presumably the south side) and to build a new addition. The cost of these improvements was \$7,767, nearly a third of the original construction cost. The fire seemed to provide the necessary impetus for the expansion, which was sorely needed because of the increase in the number of orphans being housed in the institution. At the time of the fire there were 69 children in the orphanage.¹¹ Throughout its duration, the orphanage continued to serve as home to between 50 and 100 children at any time.

In 1918 the anti-German sentiment created by World War I prompted the Association to drop the German language, as did many other organizations and schools in the city of Indianapolis. In 1919 the Association officially changed its name to the General Protestant Orphans Association, deleting any reference to nationality.¹² Though the outward signs of ethnic heritage were eliminated, the board of the Association and its officers continued to be comprised of persons with German ancestors. The determination to maintain the inherited cultural ties of the Association was strong. By 1900 all but four of the original members had died;¹³ yet, the use of German for association business and in the orphanage was continued over 50 years after the organization's founding and into the second and third generation of German immigrants. Only as a consequence of a nationwide trend of anti-German prejudice was the mother language reluctantly abandoned.

By the mid-20th century, changing philosophies for social service organizations, the decreasing numbers of orphans, and the increased use of private foster homes caused three Indianapolis orphanages to merge. On November 1, 1941, the Children's Bureau of Indianapolis closed the Indianapolis Orphans Asylum; the Evangelical Lutheran Orphans Home was also closed. The children remaining in these institutions were then transferred to the General Protestant Orphans Home, which then gained support from the Indianapolis Community Fund.¹⁴ At the time it closed, the Indianapolis Orphans Asylum was the city's oldest orphanage, having been founded in 1849. Its home at that time, located at 4107 East Washington Street, was built in 1902. The Evangelical Lutheran Orphans Home (formerly German Evangelical Lutheran) was organized in February 1883. Its building, located at 3310 East Washington at the intersection of LaSalle, was constructed the same year.¹⁵ Thus by 1941, the General Protestant Orphans Home was the sole survivor of the three major 19th-century orphan institutions in the city.

In the following 40 years of operation, the General Protestant Orphans Home continued to undergo changes, primarily in philosophy. The home began to operate as a temporary shelter for children between foster homes, and very few children lived there for extended periods of time. In 1971, because of these changes in service, the name was changed to the Pleasant Run Children's Home. Finally, in 1982, a decision in favor of a group home setting marked the building's last use as a residential facility for children. The administrative offices of the Pleasant Run Children's Home left the building in January 1983,¹⁶ thus ending the edifice's 110 years of service to orphaned children.

Architectural Significance

Diedrich August Bohlen (1827-1890) may well be the most important architect to have practiced in Indianapolis during the 19th century. His work in the city spanned a period of four decades and included a full range of building

types: private residences, commercial architecture, academic buildings, churches, and institutional buildings, many of which still survive as landmarks of the community. The architectural practice that he began in the 1850s is still in practice today as the firm of Bohlen, Meyer, and Gibson — a rare example in Indiana of a firm with a 130-year history.

D. A. Bohlen was born in Hanover, Germany, and studied at the University of Holzminden.¹⁷ In 1851 at the age of 24 he emigrated to the United States and settled in Indianapolis within two years of his arrival in his adopted country. For a short time he practiced under noted architect Francis Costigan and worked on the Asylum for the Blind (demolished), one of the city's most architecturally significant institutional buildings. He established his own firm in April 1853. His earliest documented buildings are those for St. Mary-of-the-Woods College near Terre Haute, Indiana, Foley Hall (1858) among them. His military service during the Civil War temporarily interrupted his architectural practice.

Bohlen was active in many of the city's German societies, most notably the German-English Independent School of which he was both founding trustee and contributor.¹⁸ He was one of the original charter members of the General German Protestant Orphans Association. Between the date of the founding of this organization in 1867 and the time of his presentation of drawings to the Building Committee in February 1871,¹⁹ Bohlen had designed many new buildings to his credit: St. John's Catholic Church on S. Capitol Street, Public School 8 on Bates Street, Roberts Park Methodist Episcopal Church on N. Delaware Street, the original St. Vincent's Hospital (demolished) and several commercial structures (now all demolished) including the Brandon Block, the Charles Mayer and Company Store, and the Hubbard Block.

As detailed in Item 7, Description, the architectural significance of his design for the orphanage in part is owed to his eclectic incorporation of design elements from traditional German vernacular architecture. While the building reflects many popular stylistic trends of American architecture of the 1870s, the architect's individualistic use of detailing is unusual. The orphanage is probably one of the city's first examples of a building designed on the principles of polychromy, in which the use of contrasting building materials (here the orange/red main brick accented by yellow brick and limestone) produces dramatic effect. Although polychromed buildings were making their appearance in various styles such as the Venetian Gothic as early as the 1860s in other parts of the country, Bohlen's use of it here may have stemmed from his familiarity with its effect in vernacular buildings of his homeland.

Another aspect of the building's architectural significance is its sheer size — nearly 25,000 square feet excluding attic. The survival to the present day of a building this size is remarkable in view of the fate of so much of the state's large-scale institutional structures of over 100

years of age. The quality of the building materials and the craftsmanship of the construction have contributed to this survival. The original expenditure of \$25,000, an impressive sum in its day, is also some measure of the building's contemporary significance.

In 1884 Oscar Bohlen (1863-1936), an 1881 graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, joined his father's practice. The firm name was changed to D. A. Bohlen and Son, a name that endured for nearly 80 years until 1961. The orphanage's major addition of 1886 was therefore by this firm, drawing upon the father's original work. In the years before D.A. Bohlen's death in 1890, a number of important civic commissions were undertaken, among them Tomlinson Hall in 1885, for many years the only public assembly hall in Indianapolis (demolished), and the City Market, 1888, still thriving today. In all of Diedrich Bohlen's prolific career, his design for the General German Protestant Orphans Home remains as one of his best works.

Notes

1. "Annual Report of the German General Protestant Orphan Association," 1887-1888, pp. 5-6.
2. Ray C. Enmeier, Pleasant Run Children's Home, A History. (Indianapolis: Published by the author, 1980), pp. 30-33.

The constitution and association minutes did not record the occupations of the charter members or officers. Various Indianapolis city directories from 1867 to 1873 were utilized to determine occupations of the officers and a random selection of the charter members. Since there were four Charles Schmidts and one C. F. Schmidt listed in the 1970 directory, the occupation of the Carl Schmidt who served as financial secretary in 1867 is not certain.
3. Enmeier, p. 33.
4. Ibid., p. 35.
5. "The German Orphan Association," Indianapolis Journal, February 16, 1872, p. 5, c. 3.
6. "Annual Report," p. 8.
7. Theodor Stempfel. Festschrift zur Zeier der Vollendung des Deutschen Hauses in Indianapolis. (Indianapolis: Pitts & Smith, Publishers, 1898.
8. "Annual Report," p. 9.
9. Enmeier, p. 53.
10. Enmeier, pp. 54 and 72. See aslo: "annual Lawn Fete, Aug. 12, Will Mark 61st Anniversary of the Protestant Orphans' Home." Indianapolis Star, August 5, 1928, pt. 3, p. 29, c. 2.
11. "Annual Report," pp. 16-17.
12. Enmeier, p. 43.
13. "German Orphan's Home," Indianapolis News, June 2, 1900, p. 15, c. 2.
14. Enmeier, pp. 64-65.
15. "A Half Century of Service in Child Care," pamphlet dated June 11, 1933. Collection of the Indiana Division, Indiana State Library. Also Enmeier, pp. 64-65.

16. Information on recent history from a telephone conversation with a staff member of the Pleasant Run Children's Home, January 1984.
17. Unless otherwise footnoted, information on Bohlen is from the following sources: 1) His obituary: "Notable City Deaths," Indianapolis News, June 2, 1890, p. 1, c. 6. 2) Manufacturing and Mercantile Resources of Indianapolis, Indiana, part IV, "Resources and Industries of Indiana." (Indianapolis: Historical and Statistical Publishing Company, 1883), p. 555. 3) "A Rich Legacy for Indiana," Indiana Architect (2nd qtr, 1976), pp. 9-12. 4) Henry and Elise Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970). 5) "Chronological List of Projects" from the files of Bohlen, Meyer, Gibson & Associates, Inc.
18. Theodore Stein, Our Old School (Indianapolis: The Cheltham-Aetna Press, 1913).
19. Minutes of the meeting of February 5, 1871 from Minutes of Meetings, vol. 1, 1867-1882. Records of the Pleasant Run Children's Home. Indiana Historical Society.

"Annual Report of the German General Protestant Orphan Association," 1887-88. Pamphlet, 25 pp. Indiana Historical Society. Extracts translated from German by William Selm, Historian.

Drawings of the General German Protestant Orphans Home in the collection of Bohlen, Gibson, Meyer & Associates. 15 drawings including the original presentation rendering.

Enmeier, Ray C. Pleasant Run Children's Home, A History, Indianapolis: Published by the author, 1980.

"The German Orphan Association," Indianapolis Journal, February 16, 1872, p. 5, c. 3.

"German Orphan's Home," Indianapolis News, June 2, 1900, p. 15, c. 2.

Page, H. R. Indianapolis Illustrated, Indianapolis: H. R. Page & Co, 1889, published in 9 parts, photo of the building in part 7, p. 57.

Records of the Pleasant Run Children's Home. "Minutes of Meetings": vol. 1, 1867-1882, and vol. 2, 1882-1888. Indiana Historical Society.

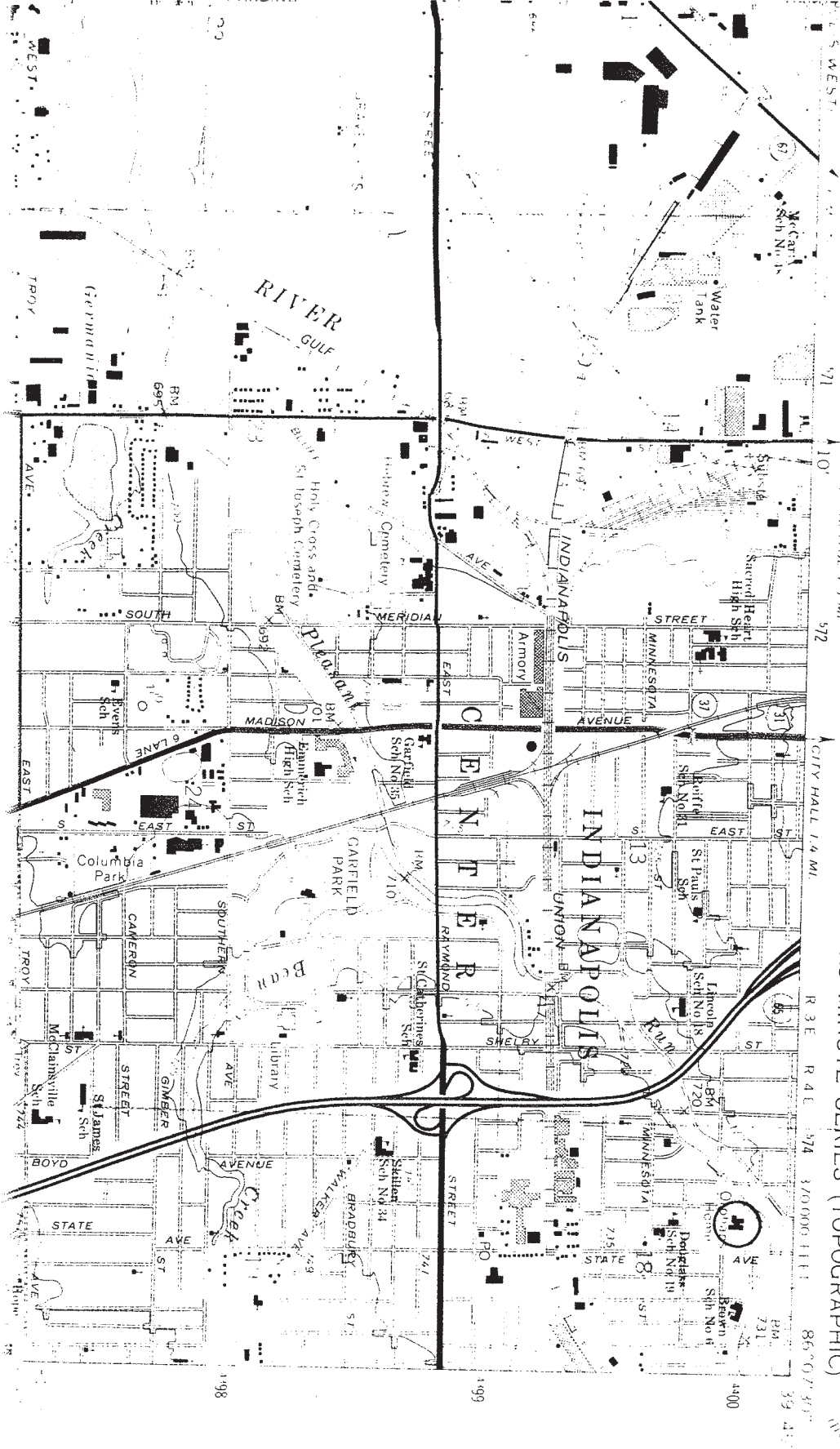
Sanborn Map Company. Insurance Maps of Indianapolis, Indiana. 1887, 1898, 1898 corrected to 1913, 1914 corrected 1951, and 1958 corrected to 1969.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Legal description for reference: Hubbard et al. Southeast Addition Tract 3,4,5, and 6. Also Tract 8 and Lots 13 to 17. Dynes and Cassidy's vacation of Cottage Avenue. Also parts of Lots 45-50 except for Parkway and all of Lots 51-57.

Beginning at the southwest corner of Lot 4 in Block 11; thence North $89^{\circ}23'$ East along the south line thereof 298 feet to the east line of Draper Street; thence south west along said east line 224.501 feet to a point north measured along the east line of Draper Street a distance of 44 feet from its intersection with the north line of a 16 foot alley; thence North $89^{\circ}23'$ East parallel with said north line 542.964 feet to the west line of State Street; thence North West along this 741.196 feet to the northeast corner of Lot 57; thence South $89^{\circ}23'$ West along the north line of Lots 57, 53, and 52 a distance of 177.7 feet to a point that is 7.46 feet West of the northeast corner of Lot 52, said point being on the southeast line of the property conveyed by the General Protestant Orphan Association to the City of Indianapolis on April 11, 1924 (the following four calls being along said line), said point also being on a curve concave Southeasterly, having a central angle of $46^{\circ}03'07''$ and a radius of 337.11 feet; thence Southwesterly around said curve an arc distance of 270.955 feet (said arc being subtended by a chord having a bearing of South $65^{\circ}50'35''$ West and a length of 263.721 feet) to the southwest corner of Lot 45; thence South $42^{\circ}22'02''$ West a distance of 291.681 feet to a point East a distance of 214.43 feet from the northwest corner of Lot 4 in Square 11 as measured along the north line thereof, said point also being on a curve concave Northwesterly having a central angle of $14^{\circ}14'36''$ and a radius of 573.140 feet; thence Southwesterly around said curve an arc distance of 142.477 feet (said arc being subtended by a chord having a bearing of South $49^{\circ}08'16''$ West and length of 142.111 feet); thence South $56^{\circ}40'$ West 128 feet to the east line of Spruce Street; thence South West along said line a distance of 37 feet to the point of beginning.

Extracted from Certificate of Survey by Allan H. Weihe, August 10, 1983.



General German Protestant
Orphans Home
Indianapolis, Indiana
UTM Reference:
16/574390/4399940