

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 Christamore House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 502 North Tremont Street N/A not for publication

city, town Indianapolis N/A 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 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
	N/A	<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: Social Ser. Ag

4. Owner of Property

name Christamore House, Inc.

street & number 502 North Tremont Street

city, town Indianapolis N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46222

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 741 City-County Building

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana 46204

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

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

Christamore House is located on the northwest corner of Michigan and Tremont Streets, about one-half mile west of White River and downtown Indianapolis, in a neighborhood known as Haughville. The building faces east on Tremont Street.

The Georgian Revival building is a two-and-one-half story structure of brick laid in a Flemish variation of the common bond. It has a slate covered hip roof and a U-shaped plan. The ends of the U face Tremont Street. The main facade is on the east side between the two wings of the U. This arrangement creates an open-ended courtyard on Tremont Street (Photo #1). The main facade is nine bays wide. A three-bay central pavilion on this facade is defined by brick quoins and a pedimented gable. In the central bay of this pavilion is a double-door entry with a set of eight lights in each door and a stone surround. On a stone tablet above the door is the inscription, "MARTHA STEWART CAREY/HER WORK IS HERE MANIFEST." (Photo #3.) Windows in the entry pavilion are three-sash, multi-paned casement windows (Photo #7). In the tympanum of the pediment is a stone relief sculpture composed of twin cornucopias encircling a stone medallion (Photo #2). The design of the medallion, which is taken from the Indiana State flag, is a torch surrounded by 18 stars. The cornice of the pediment, as well as the entire building, is molded wood with modillions. On the roof directly above the entry is a hexagonal cupola with multi-paned, round-arched windows, and a metal cornice and tent roof (Photo #9).

Windows of the bays which flank the central pavilion are like those of the central pavilion, except that on the bays second from each end of the east facade are paired windows instead of three-part windows. Above each of these paired casement windows is a paired, casement dormer window with diamond-shaped panes (Photo #6). There are four evenly placed chimneys on the roof above this facade (Photo #1).

The north and south facades which face the courtyard are identical (Photo #4). Each is five bays wide. The central three bays of each facade have a large, recessed, round-arched, multi-paned window with a brick surround except for stone keystones and impost stones (Photo #5). Below each of these windows is a recessed brick panel and below that, a stone sill. Each end bay of each of these facades has a door with a molded stone surround and entablature. Above each door is a paired, multi-paned casement window. The east end of each of these facades has brick quoins. On the roof above the central bay of each of these facades is a dormer, like the dormers above the main facade. Rising from the hip of the roof of each of the east ends of the U is a large brick chimney with stone coping (Photo #8).

The south facade (Photo #11) of the south wing of the U faces on Michigan Street, and is detailed similarly to the north and south courtyard facades. The rear facade, or west facade (Photo #10) of the base of the U, is very simply detailed, with single and grouped double-hung windows with one light in each sash. There are two large chimneys, one at each end of the roof above this facade, on this side of the building (Photo #10).

The interior of the Christamore House is virtually unaltered. There is a single-loaded corridor on the first floor with offices and classrooms on the west and a courtyard on the east. Interior walls are plastered while the floor is slate. Changes found on this floor can be seen in the rearrangement of the Director's office in the central building, and in the application of modern materials, such as paneling and acoustic tile, in the classrooms.

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

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

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date entered

Continuation sheet Christamore House

Item number 7

Page 1

The hall leads to the gymnasium to the north and the auditorium to the south. Both areas are in excellent condition. The gymnasium has glazed tile block for the first five feet of the interior wall and brick for the rest (Photo #12). The roof is made of exposed wood timber truss of a double frame configuration (Photo #13).

The auditorium (Photo #15), similar to the gymnasium in area and mass, is composed of brick walls with decorative insets, and a segmented proscenium arch at the east end of the room. The original ceiling has been obscured by a ceiling composed of acoustic tile. The original ceiling trusses can be observed in the boxing room (Photo #14), once part of the balcony, which was converted and walled in following a fire in the late 1960s or early 1970s. The south windows bordering Michigan Street in the boxing room and in the auditorium are bricked in.

The second floor, which only occurs in the central building, has a double-loaded corridor, where originally the rooms were used as housing for those who worked on the premises. Today the rooms are used as administrative and counseling offices and as workshop rooms. Other workshop areas along with workout rooms can be found in the basement, which is located under the central building.

The site has changed over the years; specifically, trees once could be found in the courtyard and a brick wall was in place to mark off the courtyard. Neither of these remains today. The courtyard is fenced by a tall wrought iron fence.

## 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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1924-26

**Builder/Architect** Eugene H. Brown, Contractor  
Wm. Earl Russ, Architect

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Christamore House is significant as the home of the second oldest settlement house in Indianapolis and the first such institution established for the white community. Christamore House, which has provided social services to the poor and working class since its founding in 1905, is an important local representation of the nationwide settlement house movement which began in the late 19th century, with Hull House in Chicago.

The Christamore House movement began with the organization of the Butler College Settlement Association by Anna Stover and Edith Surbey, two local Butler College students. The settlement house movement, in general, was based on the belief, which these women shared, that the poor could be helped to help themselves rise above their current situations. A sense of obligation to society, coupled with an opportunity to put theory into application, led to an overwhelming response by female college graduates to this movement.

The name, "Christamore," was designated by the Butler College Settlement Association and means "Love of Christ." Butler's association with Christamore House was in the form of faculty advisors, financial assistance, and moral support. Many female students from Butler joined Stover and Surbey as workers at the house. In fact, in its early days the settlement house served as a training school for social work students from Butler and from Indiana University. The house has also been important as a neighborhood social service center. Over the years, it has provided a free kindergarten; some of the first free dental, prenatal, and well baby clinics in the city; and the first public home nursing program. Christamore House has also conducted English classes for immigrants. It was instrumental in the foundation of the Progressive Education Society of Indianapolis, an organization which sought equality in education for children of all races and ethnic backgrounds. Christamore House was a charter member of the National Federation of Settlements, founded in 1911. No longer associated with Butler, the settlement house is now a member of Community Centers of Indianapolis, an umbrella organization for institutions of this type.

The first home of the settlement house, in 1905, was in one room of a cottage at 1718 North Arsenal Avenue in the vicinity of the Atlas Engine Works. At that time the Christamore House catered, for the greatest part, to the employees of the company and their families. Flanner House, which has been in continuous operation since 1898, was an earlier settlement house, but was established for the black community. Christamore House served only the white community in its early days, but later expanded to provide services to blacks, as well. The present Christamore House building is the sixth home of the settlement house. The other five locations have been the Arsenal Avenue house, 1908-10 Columbia Avenue, 1806 Columbia Avenue, the corner of King and St. Clair Streets, and the corner of 18th and Martindale Streets.

The area in which the present building is located was chosen by the Christamore Board of Directors, on the basis of a survey of the needs of the working class living in areas adjacent to the industrial parts of the city. The area chosen, known as Haughville, was

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

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

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Continuation sheet Christamore House

Item number 8

Page 2

first settled by Eastern European immigrants during the growth of industry that occurred at the turn of the century. Haughville was adjacent to an industrial area where the major part of its working residents were employed.

The land for the present building was purchased by the Christamore Board of Directors in 1921. The auditorium and gymnasium were started in 1924 after \$100,000 was raised through donations. These sections of the building, completed in 1925, were dedicated to William H. Coleman, a Butler College professor, for his support of the house. The central part of the building, which connects the auditorium and the gymnasium, was also completed in 1925. This part of the structure was dedicated to Martha Stewart Carey, who died in 1925 after a life devoted to social service organizations, especially Christamore House.

When the present Christamore House building was constructed, the Haughville area was the major relocation area for immigrants coming to Indianapolis from Germany, Ireland, and Eastern Europe. The area was also receiving a high influx of black migrants from the rural South. Although the composition of the community has gradually become predominantly black, and industry associated with the area has moved, Christamore House has continued to be a focal point for the community. The work of the settlement house has continued to be much the same since the dedication of the present building in 1925.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.14 acres

Quadrangle name Indianapolis West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	6	5	6	8	4	1	0	4	4	0	2	8	5	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** Beginning at a point at the intersection of the north line of West Michigan Street and the west line of Tremont Avenue; thence 153' west, 324.6' north, 153' east to Tremont Avenue, 324.6' south to West Michigan Street.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state		code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Becky Pryor

organization Christamore Aid Society date May 2, 1984

street & number 320 West 92nd Street telephone 317/844-7769

city or town Indianapolis state Indiana 46260

# 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 *Juli Tolstett*

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 2-6-85

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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

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Christamore House

Item number 9

Page 3

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Interview with Eugene H. Brown, Contractor, 1983.

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