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

1. Name

historic	Gennett, Henry a	and Alice, House	na general anna còtairte Machteoirte a bhraicte d		
and/or common					
2. Loca	ation				
street & number	1829 East Main S	itreet	N/	A not for pu	blication
city, town	Richmond	N/A_ vicinity of			
state	Indiana co	de 018 county	Wayne	code	177
3. Clas	sification				Nazioni, Constanto fermanascontrara de
Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public X private both Public Acquisition in process being considered N/A	Status _X_occupied unoccupied _X_work in progress Accessible _X_yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture X commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museu park private religiou scientit transpo other:	residence Is lic
4. Own	er of Prope	rty			
name C/0	World Life and A o Mr. and Mrs. Wayı	ccident Association ne E. Vincent			
street & number	5900 01d U.S. 27	South		uj sede i	ebao -
city, town	Richmond	N/A_vicinity of	state	Indiana	47374
5. Loca	tion of Leg	al Descriptio	n	Henterta anti-antiona antiona antiona antiona antiona antiona	
		der's Office, Wayne			
street & number		. Main Street			
city, town	Richm	nond	state	Indiana	47374
6. Repr	esentation	in Existing S	Surveys		
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FINAL OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84

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7. Description

Condition	Check one unaltered X altered	Check one Xoriginal site moved dateN/A
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Henry and Alice Gennett House is a large, Colonial Revival-style home located on the near east side of Richmond, Indiana. Prominently situated at the corner of Main Street (U.S. 40) and 19th Street, the home is constructed of yellow brick and features a lime-stone foundation and a monumental entry portico. Constructed in 1900 for one of the founders of the Starr Piano Factory, the home was converted into apartments in the 1940's. The current owner is presently renovating the structure for office uses.

The home consists of a large, rectangular, hip-roofed central block with small projecting wings, or porches, on each facade. The symmetrical main (north) facade is three bays wide and is dominated by the two-story main entry portico, surmounted by a large, semi-circular bay (photo 3). The portico, itself, consists of four fluted Ionic columns on a semi-circular platform, ringed by three steps of cut limestone. The main door is a single-leaf, glazed unit enhanced with decorative floral carving, and surmounted by a transom. This door is located in a recessed entryway which is flanked by two fixed-sash windows mounted in plain surrounds on walls angled at 45° to the main door architrave. A terra cotta strip molding enhances the plain brick surrounds of the first and second story windows in the main body of the house. The windows, themselves, are double-hung sash units with single lights in the upper and lower sashes (photo 4).

A second entrance and portico of somewhat smaller scale is located in the center of the east facade (photo 5). This semi-circular portico is one story high and was flanked by two screened porches on either side. These porches were later enclosed and refitted as bathrooms after Henry Gennett's death.

Projecting from the west facade is the conservatory, a one-story wing with a semi-circular bay. The conservatory features a band of large, double-hung, one-over-one windows separated by brick piers treated as pilasters. This bay originally housed a grand piano manufactured by the owner's firm.

On the south or rear wall of the house is a two story, enclosed porch which was originally screened on both floors. When the house was converted to apartments in 1940, the porch was extended 8' south and walled with plywood on the second floor and wood siding on the first floor. The porch foundation, which was originally limestone block, was extended with cinder block (photo 6).

The overscaled entablature with modillions follows the second floor ceiling line of the house. The actual masonry wall area extends approximately 5' above this line to the cornice. Pedimented dormers with Doric pilasters interrupt this cornice at irregular intervals; the window sills of these units rest on the entablature. Truncated, hipped roofs are employed on the central block and the conservatory; the north wing and the east portico have flat, built-up roofs. A balustrade originally appeared on the east portico roof, but this feature has been removed.

Five chimneys extend above the roof. They are of brick construction with four-step, corbelled molding above, which the shaft continues. Each chimney is finished with a narrow rimmed cap to form a crown on the shaft. The chimney located in the southeast portion of the south wall is flush. The other four interior chimneys are located nearly equidistant from the east-west centerline of the house.

The main entrance to the house opens into a T-shaped, wood paneled hallway. At the juncture of the main and cross hallways is a stone fireplace (photo 7). To the right (west) of this fireplace is the staircase to the second floor. The first floor landing is also

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 X 1900–		community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	politics/government	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1900	Builder/Architect Unkr	nown John A. Huse	ecoster

Statement of Significance (S. C. participation)

The Gennett House is significant for its architecture and for its association with Henry and Alice Gennett, both of whom achieved local prominence for their involvement with Richmond's industry and commerce. The home is a large, Colonial Revival-style structure noted for its Ionic-columned, two-story entry portico. The original owner of the house, Henry Gennett, was one of the founders of the Starr Piano Company, and served as its president for more than 20 years. After his death, his widow, Alice, took an active role in the management of the firm and eventually became Chairman of the Board. The Gennetts' home, remodeled into apartments in the 1940's, is currently being renovated for use as an insurance office.

E.Main District file

Henry Gennett was born in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1852, and worked there, and in St. Louis. Gennett and his father-in-law, John Lumsden, operated a chain of music stores, and in 1893 joined with Benjamin Starr in organizing a piano manufacturing firm located in Richmond. Gennett came to Richmond in 1894 shortly after their new factory, the Starr Piano Company, was almost completely destroyed by fire, and helped rebuild and expand the firm. Gennett served as vice-president of the firm until 1898, when he became company president. For the next 24 years, he led the firm through a period of great growth, expanding the Richmond plant into a 35 acre industrial complex, and establishing (in 1907) a second plant in Los Angeles. During this period Starr pianos became well-known for their quality, consistently winning awards at manufacturers' shows and trade expositions. The company entered the recording business in 1915 under the Starr label. The label was soon changed to Gennett, and became famous for its recordings of Bix Beiderbecke, Hoagy Carmichael, Louis Armstrong, Jelly Roll Morton, and Gene Autry. Gennett continued as president of the firm, as well as director of two Richmond financial institutions, until his death in 1922.

Alice Gennett, Henry's wife, was well-known locally for her work as president of the Gennett Theatre Company and as a member of the Richmond Musical Club (reorganized as the Musical Study Club in 1904). Upon her husband's death she became more involved with the operations of the company, and served as vice-president for three years beginning in 1922. In 1925 she became Chairman of the Board. She remained at this house until 1939, when she sold it to a local realtor.

The Gennett House is well known, locally, for its Colonial Revival style and architecture and its imposing portico. One of the largest and most significant structures in Richmond's exclusive Linden Hills subdivision, the house was already considered a local landmark in 1906 when it was pictured in a centennial history of the county. Prominently sited on a large corner lot on Richmond's Main Street (U.S. 40), the home continues to dominate this near-east-side neighborhood.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

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II. F OI	rm Prepared	ву				
ame/title	Stuart R. Boggs, H	listoric Pr	eservation	Planner		
rganization	Historic Landmarks of Indiana	Foundatio	n	date	July 27,	1982
	State Headquarters					
treet & number	3402 Boulevard Pla	ce		telephone	317/926-2	2301
ity or town	Indianapolis			state	Indiana	46208
2. Sta	te Historic	Preser	vatior	Officer	Certifi	cation
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Continuation sheet Gennett House	Item number 7	Page	1	

a light well with distinctive leaded glass windows looking out over the roof of the conservatory. To the right of the main entrance is the former library which still contains the original, built-in bookcases. West of this room was the billiard room which occupied a portion of the conservatory. South of the conservatory was an open air porch which was made into a bedroom when the house was converted into apartments. To the right of the east entrance was the guest bedroom; to the left was Alice Gennett's bedroom. The second floor originally contained a second dining area and kitchen. The main dining room and kitchen were located at the rear of the house on the first floor (as well as a playroom and two bedrooms). The third floor was originally used as a ballroom, but in later years was used, principally, for storage by the Gennett family.

The three-bay automobile garage was constructed some time after 1909 (the garage appears in the updated 1909 Sanborn map, but not in the original, uncorrected 1909 version). It is a green painted, Shingle style structure located just south of the house and facing South 19th Street. NPS Form 10-900-a (3-82)

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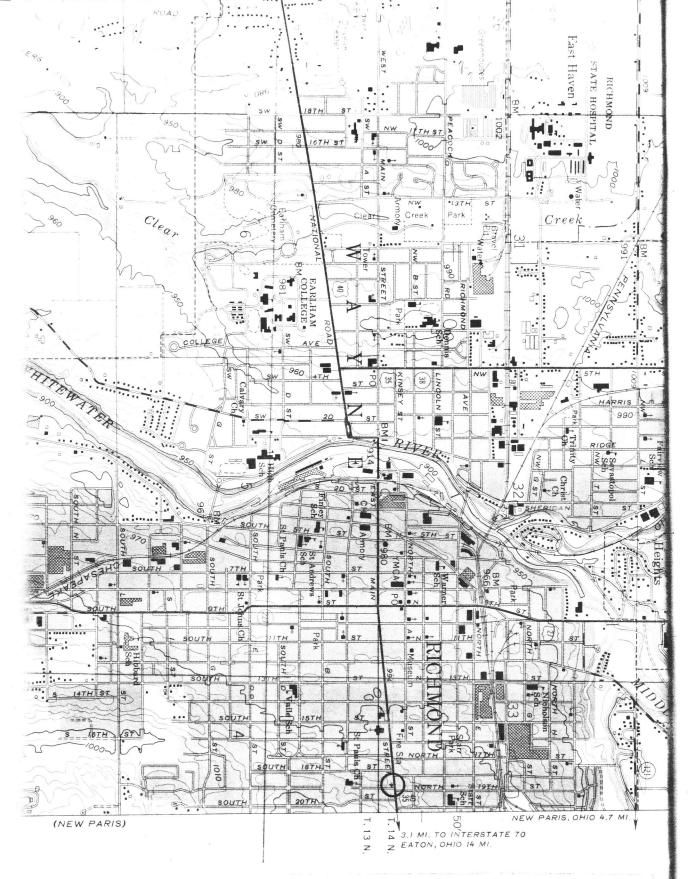
Continuation sheet Gennett House Item number 9 Page 2

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- "Pictorial History of the City of Richmond, Indiana, 1806-1906." <u>Dalbey's Centennial</u> <u>Souvenir</u>.
- Turner, Pauline Katherine, Apartment #2, Shelley Apartments (former Gennett House), Richmond, Indiana. Interview, July 22, 1982.



Henry and Alice Gennett House Richmond, Indiana UTM Reference: 16/681680/4410800

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