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 Koester/Patberg House  
and/or common  

2. Location  

street & number  504 Herndon Drive  

city, town Evansville N/A vicinity of congressional district  
state Indiana code 018 county Vanderburgh code 163  

3. Classification  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X building(s)</td>
<td>public</td>
<td>occupied</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>X structure</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>unoccupied</td>
<td>commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X site</td>
<td>both</td>
<td>work in progress</td>
<td>educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td></td>
<td>in process</td>
<td>entertainment</td>
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</table>

Public Acquisition  

| Accessible       |           | X yes: restricted| government       |
|                 |           | yes: unrestricted| industrial       |

N/A  

4. Owner of Property  

name David Dyer  

street & number  504 Herndon Drive  

city, town Evansville N/A vicinity of state Indiana  

5. Location of Legal Description  

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

street & number Civic Center  

city, town Evansville state Indiana  

6. Representation in Existing Surveys  

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes X no  

date June, 1981  

| depository for survey records Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| city, town Indianapolis state Indiana      |
7. Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
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<tr>
<td>good</td>
<td>altered</td>
<td>X altered</td>
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<tr>
<td>fair</td>
<td>ruins</td>
<td>moved</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>unexposed</td>
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The two-story Koester/Patberg residence contrasts markedly with its 20th century surroundings of low-scale, pre- and post-World War II housing development. Erected in 1873-74 as a country residence for wholesale grocer Louis Koester, the house is almost two miles northeast of the city center. Since 1940, the once-rural context has been supplanted by tract developments, highways, shopping centers, and the like.

The basic plan entails a long (about 66 feet) and narrow (26 feet) two-story massing of common brick covered by a pitched roof which forms end gables. This configural regularity is broken only by a two-story east-wall projection (2 feet by 18 feet). The gabled front faces Herndon Drive (once a dirt lane) and is three bays wide with a double-leaf corner entrance opening into a lateral stair hall. Period constructional features—limestone lintels and sills and double-hung sashes with two-over-two lights—are in evidence, as are the typical Italianate dressings of eaves underscored by brackets and panel board, windows trimmed with cornice moldings, and a front gable ornamented by a set of small, round-arched windows with stone drip moldings. All windows are still flanked by their original wood-slatted shutters.

Although the constrained massing of the Koester house is more commonly associated with 19th century urban construction than with domestic rural architecture, Evansville architect Henry Mursinna departed from a strictly rectangular plan in his Koester house design and incorporated a two-bay-wide gabled pavilion into the east wall. Italianate trim, including a stone trimmed oculus and sets of flanking paired windows, typical of the style, complement the pavilion. The elaborate treatment of this elevation may have been motivated by Koester's wish to impress travelers on the State Road (now Stringtown Road) 300 yards to the east. The west and north elevations are plain.

Relatively few buildings survive without some change occurring to their original plan. The Koester/Patberg house is no exception. However, alterations have been minimal, and the only discernible exterior change seems to have been the replacement, in about 1920, of the original wooden front porch by the present substantial porch/porté cochere constructed of Rugby brick and concrete.
8. Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</th>
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Specific dates 1873-74
Builder/Architect Henry Mursinna, architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)
An association with Louis Koester, one of 19th century Evansville's prominent businessmen, a fine Italianate format conceived by Evansville architect Henry Mursinna and the well-preserved state of the building's original fabric are all factors which contribute to the significance of the Koester/Pathberg House.

Louis Koester's life history has yet to be fully investigated, but research indicates that he was one of Evansville's more enterprising businessmen during the last decades of the 19th century. A native of Prussia, he immigrated to the United States in the late 1840s. His rise in local commercial affairs began in 1857 when he and Frederick Korff, also from Prussia, formed the retail grocery concern of Koester and Korff. In 1872, the two men altered their course and entered the wholesale grocery trade. By 1880, the firm was grossing $100,000 to $130,000 per year from an operation which embraced not only the Tri-state region but extended into southern and western states, as well. In 1886, Koester and Korff formed the Diamond Coal Mining Company and ventured into deep-shaft mining on land situated a quarter mile to the northeast of the Koester House. This undertaking was coincidental with the ascendance of Evansville's manufacturing industry, the vitality of which partly rested upon coal mined locally. Korff retired from participation in the grocery and mining operations several years later, but Koester remained active in both enterprises until about 1900. The mine, however, continued to be worked throughout the early years of the 20th century.

A year after Koester and Korff established their wholesale grocery business (1872), Koester commissioned local architect Henry Mursinna to design a country residence on a ¾ acre tract of land about a mile north of the city limits which he had owned since 1869. Evansville had five architects at the time, and German-born Mursinna (1827-1909) held the premier position within the ranks of his profession. He had settled in Evansville in about 1859 and over the course of a notable 49-year career produced designs throughout the region which included the John A. Reitz House (National Register, 1973), the William Heilman mansion, Trinity Methodist Church, Trinity Catholic Church and School, and the Huntingburg, Indiana, Town Hall (National Register, 1975). From studying his extant works, it is apparent that Mursinna handled the French and Italianate modes most effectively. While the Koester house lacks the high degree of sophistication embodied in his designs for the high-style Heilman or Reitz buildings, his use of Italianate detail is refined. The Koester design demonstrates his usual thoughtful planning and attention to detail. The plainness of the west wall of the Koester house, the elevation not visible to public view, is a recurrent theme in 19th century Evansville architecture, and suggests a measure of economy in this city heavily populated by frugal Germans.

The preserved status of this 108-year-old residence is owed to the Herman Pathberg family and descendants, who owned and occupied the house from 1902 until 1980. While their circa 1920 porch/portecochere improvement project is distinctive, the house is essentially unchanged since it was erected. Its conspicuous presence in this otherwise 20th century neighborhood is remarkable.
9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property  less than one acre

Quadrangle name  Evansville South

UMT References

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
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<td>45,1 17,0</td>
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</table>

Quadrangle scale  1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The house is situated on lot 45 of Patberg Terrace, a replat of lot 29 of Maxwell's Subdivision of (part) Section 17, Township 6, Range 10 West.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state</th>
<th>code</th>
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<tbody>
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title  Joan Marchand, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization  Department of Metropolitan Development
date  January 28, 1982

street & number  216 Washington Avenue
telephone  812/426-5487

city or town  Evansville
state  Indiana

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

   ___ national   ___ state      X 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  [Signature]

title  Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer
date  1-21-83

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register  [Signature]  date  3/3/83

Attest:  [Signature]  date
ATLASES, CITY DIRECTORIES AND HISTORIES

Evansville City Directories, 1858+


*The Industries of Evansville, Indiana--Commercial and Manufacturing Advantages.* Evansville: Evansville Board of Trade, 1880.

PICTORIAL SOURCES


PUBLIC RECORDS


Vanderburgh County, Indiana. Deed Indexes and Deeds (c.1816+).

Vanderburgh County, Indiana. Plat Records (1818+).
Koester/Patberg House
Vanderburgh County
INDIANA

Working No.: FEB 3 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 5/17/84
Date Due: 3/3/83 - 3/26/83
Action: \(\square\) ACCEPT 3/3/83

Entered in the National Register \(\square\) RETURN \(\square\) REJECT

Federal Agency: ________

Substantive Review: \(\square\) sample \(\square\) request \(\square\) appeal \(\square\) NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria ________
Reviewer ________
Discipline ________
Date ________
__ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \(\square\) technical corrections cited below
\(\square\) substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name ________

2. Location ________

3. Classification ________

4. Owner of Property ________

5. Location of Legal Description ________

6. Representation in Existing Surveys ________

7. Description ________

Condition good ________ ruined ________ altered ________ moved ________

Check one: excellent ________ deteriorated ________ unaltered ________ original site ________

Check one: poor ________ unexposed ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

__ summary paragraph ______ completeness ______ clarity ______ alterations/integrity ______ dates
8. Significance

Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

- Specific dates
- Builder Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

- Areas of nominated property
- Quadrangle name
- UTM References

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is

- national
- state
- local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed __________________________ Date ______________ Phone: 202 272-350

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet.
RES-Louis Koester
- On Stringtown Road -
KOESTER/PATBERG HOUSE
504 Herndon Drive
Evansville, IN     Vanderburgh County
J. Marchand;  DMD;  3/12/81

View to the northwest of the south elevation
reproduced from The Book of Evansville
Illustrated, 1895.     Photo #1
KOESTER/PATBERG HOUSE
504 Herndon Drive
Evansville, IN Vanderburgh County
J. Marchand; DMD; 3/12/81
View to the northwest of the east elevation.

Photo # 2
KOESTER/PATBERG HOUSE
504 Herndon Drive
Evansville, IN Vanderburgh County
J. Marchand; 3/12/81; DMD

View to the northwest of the south elevation.

Photo # 3
KOESTER/PATBERG HOUSE
504 Herndon Drive
Evansville, IN    Vanderburgh County
J. Marchand;  DMD;  3/12/81
View to the northeast of the west
elevation.

Photo # 4
January 31, 1983

Carol D. Shull  
Acting Chief of Registration  
D O I  
W 434  
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed is a National Register Nomination for the Koester/Patberg House, 504 Herndon Drive, Evansville, Vanderburgh County, Indiana.

The Indiana Professional Review Board reviewed the nomination, and voted to recommend its inclusion in the National Register.

Very truly yours,

Richard A. Gantz  
Assistant to the State Historic Preservation Officer  
RAG:dmp