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**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

**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 Herman Simon House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 41 North Third Street _____ not for publication

city, town Easton _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 15

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Northampton code 095

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Easton Association of the YWCA

street & number 41 North Third Street

city, town Easton _____ vicinity of _____ state Pennsylvania 18042

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Northampton County Courthouse

street & number Seventh & Walnut Streets

city, town Easton _____ state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date June 19, 1979 _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg _____ state Pennsylvania

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Herman Simon House is located on approximately two-thirds of an acre in an urban setting on the east side of North Third Street in Easton.

The building is basically rectangular, measuring approximately 24 feet wide and extending approximately 120 feet from the sidewalk. A projecting porch extends approximately 12 feet to the south of the main facade, and a four story semi-circular bay tower projects approximately 11 feet midway on the south side.

The French Chateau Style detached dwelling is constructed on Indiana Limestone on a granite base. The roof of Vermont Red Slate is ornamented with copper crestings. Exterior features include numerous stone carvings and curved glazing at the four story bay tower of the south facade.

The first floor consists of an entrance vestibule leading to the main hall and stairway, a drawing room to the left of the main hall, dining room to the right with the kitchen beyond. The drawing room is presently used as the business office for the YWCA. The second floor consists of Mrs. Simon's suite, above the drawing room, now used as the directors office. The library above the dining room and a den beyond are presently used as meeting rooms. Mr. Simon's suite and other bedrooms on the third floor are presently occupied by the residents of the YWCA. The fourth floor, originally utilized as a ballroom and playroom, provides additional rooms for residents.

Much of the original gold-plated hardware remains. Flooring is one-inch thick quartered white oak, lighting fixtures are hand crafted in wrought-iron or solid bronze. Above the main stairway is a stained glass skylight (presently closed from view.) Woodwork throughout is hand carved in cherry, oak, and mahogany.

The vitality of the Simon house has been maintained during the last 50 years by the annexation of an adjoining residence also designed by William Michler for Mr. Simon's daughter in 1921. Sensitive additions designed by Hugh Moore, Jr., an Easton architect (were constructed in 1955 and 1970) to house recreation facilities, office space and meeting rooms.

Current plans anticipate the relocation of the business office, permitting the restoration of the drawing room, reopening the skylight over the main stair, restoration of deteriorated plaster mouldings, replacement of lighting fixtures and copper roof crestings, and general preventative maintenance throughout to insure the continued use of the building.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect William M. Michler

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The YWCA building was formerly the residence of Herman Simon, a German immigrant whose textile mills in Union Hill, New Jersey, and Easton, Pennsylvania, were ranked among the model industrial establishments of the world.

Simon was born at Frankfort-am-Main and attended the Hassel Institute. Upon graduation, he entered the royal weaving school at Mulheim-am-Rhine with the intention of coming to the U.S. to manufacture silk upon completion of his studies.

In 1868 Simon came to the U. S. and was employed by A. T. Stewart and Company where he acquired great technical and administrative expertise. Simon formed a partnership with his brother, Robert, in 1874. They built a factory in Union Hill, New Jersey, and 70 power looms were installed. These looms were the invention of Robert Simon and were the first in the world that were able to produce a perfect piece of gros-grain silk. The Easton Silk Mill was built in 1883. At the onset, only 200 employees were needed but by the 1920's the number had increased to 2600. The partnership was tremendously successful and the brothers were acknowledged as the leaders of the largest silk, ribbon and velvet manufacturing industry in the world. On March 13, 1913, the Easton Centinel noted, "No House in any line of business whatsoever bears a more honorable reputation than that of Robert and Herman Simon or has done more to elevate the standard of American industrial administration, or to advance the quality and renown of American textile products."

Simon's home was built in 1902 in what was the most aristocratic section of Easton. William Morris Michler, one of Easton's most prominent architects, designed the building. Michler was born in Easton in 1868 and died in 1948 after a prosperous architectural career. His efforts were principally in residential architecture, and a great number of his homes can be found on College Hill, the section of Easton, northeast of the center of the City. He also designed the Salvation Army building and Trinity Episcopal Church, within blocks of the YWCA building.

The Simon home has a lavish, ornate interior and displays intricate detailing, a richness of materials, and excellent craftsmanship by international artisans. Simon was an art connoisseur and his home was filled with many beautiful objects d'art, as well.

The floor design of the building's porch is made with small chips of colored marble. The terrazzo work is modeled after pavements from the ruins of Pompeii.

A wrought-iron arched gate opens into an outside vestibule. The small foyer is wainscoted with yellow Sienna marble from Tuscany. The upper walls and ceiling are paneled with mahogany. A keystone in the vestibule

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Herman Simon House, Northampton County

CONTINUATION SHEET

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is carved in the likeness of Mrs. Simon. Fluted Ionic columns and painted festoons introduce the classicism which will be evidenced throughout the building.

The walls and ceiling of the lobby are constructed of oak panels. Fluted Ionic columns appear as if they were supporting the beamed ceiling. An intricately carved bench made to resemble a lion on the sides is beneath the stairs. Over the lobby is a stained glass skylight window representing an Italian pergola. Nicola D'Ascenzo, a famous stained glass craftsman, created the windows in the house.

The drawing room was originally decorated in the flamboyant style of Louis XVI. The room has cherry woodwork and a green marble fireplace mantel from Paris. The French rococo ceiling is painted on canvas. Gold leaf highlights the ornate moldings on the ceiling.

The bottom half of the dining room walls are mahogany panels. The upper walls are covered with a painting of a wild boar hunt extending around the semi-circular room. At each side of the marble fireplace are built-in shelves with paned glass doors.

The kitchen walls are ornamented with Delft tiles imported from Holland.

The stairway to the upper floors is constructed of hand carved quartered white oak. The Ionic column motif is repeated in the balusters of the stair rail.

Notable features on the second story are stained glass windows portraying castles along the Rhine River, a fireplace from Bavaria, and the library. The library, one of the most outstanding rooms in the building, has a beamed ceiling covered with Spanish leather, an extensive book collection; and a Caen stone fireplace. Above the fireplace are tiles depicting the Story of Faust.

The YWCA acquired the Simon residence from Mrs. Simon in 1930 after having been located in three other properties since 1909. At one time there had been an industrial outreach branch of the YWCA in the Simon factory called the "Paxinosa Club."

The Herman Simon House is one of the finest mansion houses in the city and an excellent example of the French Chateau style.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bentley, Virginia Williams, Our First Fifty Years 1909-1959. Easton Centinel, March 13, 1913. Easton Daily Express, October 1, 1913. Easton Daily Free Press, August 12, 1905. Easton Express, April 7, 1948. McGrath, Catharine and Alvin A. Swartzbach, A Brief History of the Home of the Young Women's Christian Association.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Easton, N.J.-PA.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	8
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4	8	2	3	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title George J. Donovan, R.A./Patricia Kenyon

organization Office of Historic Preservation date _____

street & number Bureau of Planning, City Hall
Box 566, 650 Ferry St.

telephone (215) 258-5989/258-7141, Ext. 50

city or town Riegelsville/Easton

state Pennsylvania 18077

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

For HCRS 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

42'30"
4506
4505
4503
4502
4501

BETHLEHEM 10 MI.
5965 III NE
FARMERSVILLE 3.3 MI.
(NAZARETH)

