1. Name of Property
   Historic name: University Club
   Other names/site number: Marmion, Elizabeth House
   Name of related multiple property listing: n/a
   (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location
   Street & number: 970 North Delaware Street
   City or town: Indianapolis
   State: IN
   County: Marion
   Not For Publication: 
   Vicinity: 

3. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
   I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets
   the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
   Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
   In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I
   recommend that this property be considered significant at the following
   level(s) of significance:
   ___ national    ___ statewide    x local
   Applicable National Register Criteria:
   ___ A    ___ B    ___ C    ___ D

   Signature of certifying official/Title: Date
   Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
   State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

   In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
   Signature of commenting official: Date
   Title: State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
4. **National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) __________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature of the Keeper</th>
<th>Date of Action</th>
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</table>

5. **Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: x

Public – Local

Public – State

Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) x

District

Site

Structure

Object
Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC: single dwelling
- SOCIAL: clubhouse

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- SOCIAL: clubhouse
7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Tudor Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
foundation: BRICK
walls: BRICK
         STUCCO
roof: STONE: slate
other: ASPHALT

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph
The University Club lies on busy Delaware Street on the near north side of downtown Indianapolis, about a block south of Interstate 70 that slashes through the area. North of the interstate is a historic residential district. Both west and east of the club is a mix of residential and commercial; to the south is mostly commercial. The building lies within a locally designated historic district, part of which is also listed in the National Register. (The National Register boundaries do not include the University Club.) From the street, the building, constructed as a Tudor Revival residence in 1921, retains its historic character. The club has done little to change the exterior (or even the interior, for that matter) apart from expanding the building in the rear, westward. The property includes two
contributing buildings: the 1921 house with historic and more recent additions, and a 1921 garage that was enlarged and remodeled in 1940 to house squash courts.

**Narrative Description**

Constructed in 1921, the University Club building was originally intended as a house, designed by Indianapolis firm Osler and Burns in the popular Tudor Revival style. The two-story brick house, which still boasts its original slate roof and tall wood frame casement windows, replaced an earlier, larger house on the same site. The University Club purchased the house in 1940 and extended the building westward to the rear shortly after acquiring it, so that addition itself is historic, dating to the 1940s. The walls of this gabled addition are stucco with brick trim, blending well with the brick of the original house. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles, which was always the case. Later, the kitchen and dining rooms were enlarged further toward the rear (west) in the early 1970s. (See the first floor sketch plan where dates are indicated.)

The original house was built on an essentially L-shaped plan with a cross-gabled slate roof with broad eaves. Each gable is ornamented with simple vergeboard and a scrolled wooden bracket at each eave. The main east facade (see photos 1,13) contains four bays; the northward two are in the gable end, each with a pair of double ten-light wood frame casement windows on the first story, and two casements flanking a fixed center in the window on the second story level. The attic story has a single casement window beneath the gable. The window openings have brick header sills and soldier brick lintels. The main entrance, a single wooden door with three lights and flanked by sidelights (photo 2), is located in the inner corner of the “L” beneath a projecting shed roof, supported by a hefty bracket, that protects a small porch reached by three brick steps. Between the joist and the end rafter is some Tudor-inspired half-timbering. A small double casement window is situated to the south of the entrance. Above the entrance at the second story level is a shed-roofed dormer with three banded casement windows. Tucked within the corner of the L is a chimney stack with gablet,
out of which rise two separate, diagonally set corbeled chimneys.

The three-bay south elevation (photos 1,3) of the original brick house features a bay window centered on the first story with three eight-light casements. To the east is a tiny four-light window (within is a restroom) and to the west a single wooden door entrance, sheltered by a flat roof supported with brackets. Most members now enter through this door, convenient to parking in the next lot south. The second story features two double ten-light casement windows flanking a smaller, higher-set center window containing a pair of six-light casements. The attic window is a single six-light casement. From structural evidence, the two-story, single-bay stuccoed extension with brick watercourse appears to be original to the 1921 house, adding another bay on this side. On the first floor is a pair of six-over-six double-hung sashes just above the watercourse. The second-floor window is a pair of four-light casements. Extending westward is the stuccoed, gabled, one-story addition, roofed with asphalt shingles. Its two bays contain a window, now covered, to the north, and a single entrance with a wooden door to the south, sheltered by a shed roof supported by brackets. Part of the kitchen dates to c.1940, the west part was added in c.1970, when the whole kitchen area was altered.

The rear west elevation (see photo 3), the early 1970s addition, is comprised of five bays. A gable rises over the southernmost two bays and delineates the kitchen within. The southernmost window is currently covered and used for an exhaust fan. The other kitchen window is a single casement. The three northward windows are six-over-six double-hung sashes.

Rounding the corner, the north elevation of the 1970s addition contains a projecting bay, topped with copper, with a total of five ten-light casements. Beneath the bay window the wall, otherwise stucco, is brick, which continues eastward beyond the window about halfway up the side aligning with the top of the windows. The east elevation of the addition that is visible reverts to stucco and contains double wooden doors, each with fifteen lights.
Between this addition and the original house is a small gabled one-story stuccoed addition (photo 4) built shortly after the club acquired the house in 1940. Its north elevation features quadruple casements of ten lights each. The exposed east elevation of this addition contains wooden double doors with ten lights each, similar to those in the later addition.

The north elevation of the original house (photo 4) displays several Tudor Revival design elements. A shallow rectangular bay window roofed with slate and containing five ten-light casements dominates the first story; centered directly above on the second are paired casements, each with fifteen lights. The attic story contains a single casement centered beneath the gable. To the east, the north elevation extends northward about six feet, sufficient to include a double casement in its west elevation on the first story. The jettied second story is half-timbered in this section, with a pair of six-light casements and a separate gable roof. It slightly projects on wood corbels over the first story, which contains a trio of ten-light casements.

Much of the original interior even from its brief time as a residence remains, especially the eastern half downstairs, but more to the point, the interior of the building from its earliest clubhouse days is largely intact. Remodeling upstairs in the early 1970s added a bathroom and removed some interior bedroom walls to enlarge two bedrooms on the north into one large social room (the clubhouse’s first upstairs bar had been located in what had been Mrs. Marmon’s bedroom) and to center the bar area along the north wall. For the most part the club has been very respectful to the interior, and it certainly retains the feel of the University Club from when it first occupied the building, with virtually no changes at all in the east portion of the downstairs and the original enlarged 1940s dining room.

Through the main entrance on the east, one enters a small foyer, which remains virtually unchanged. To the south is a small restroom in the southeast corner of the house; immediately west is
the stair hall and stairs to the second floor. The dark woodwork, possibly walnut, is lavish. To the north, in the northeast corner of the house, is the living room (photo 5), essentially unchanged from its earliest days, with original trim around the windows and doors and the original fireplace mantel in place. The room boasts windows in all four walls, as had been requested by Mrs. Marmon. To the west of the living room are the successive dining rooms (photo 6). The first is original to the house; the second larger space, immediately west, dates to the club’s acquisition of the building, and the third, larger still, dates to the 1970s. It includes a bar along its south wall. Returning to the entrance hall, beyond the stairs is another hall that serves as a foyer for the south entrance, now the one used most. On the south is a tiny office, to the west of which is another set of stairs to the second floor, as well as stairs to the basement. Opposite the stairs is a small elevator that is likely original to the house. It was inspected in 1940 when the club acquired the building. To the west of the south entrance lies the galley kitchen (photo 7), much enlarged from its earliest days.

On the second floor north of the eastward stairs is a landing (photo 8). In the corner is a small room now used for storage. To the north is a large dining room with a bar (photo 9), created from two large bedrooms. In its southwest corner is a small restroom, which appears to have been created from what had been a larger full bathroom. Behind the wall to the south is a women’s restroom, outside of which is the ladies’ lounge (photo 10), probably a former bedroom or maid’s room nestled in the southwest corner between the restroom and the westward stairs. The original windows and woodwork are still in place. Between the two staircases on the south is a small room, perhaps a former bedroom or workroom, opposite of which is a wall of built-in storage for linens. Above the westward stairs are the stairs to the attic, which is a large L-shaped open space beneath the gables. Recent insulation hides most of the construction features.

The basement, reached by a stair beneath the eastward main stairs on the south, follows the footprint of the original house sans the
living room. Cluttered and tight, it is roughly divided into three storage areas, with the mechanicals located beneath the original dining room.

The large building (photos 11,12) at the rear of the lot was built in the 1940s just after the club acquired the house, extending northwest from an existing small one-story stuccoed garage built for the house. It contains two squash courts, which have not changed since they were built. The locker room and showers were and still are located in what had been the one-story garage, and it and the upstairs observation area have been remodeled somewhat over the years with plumbing upgrades and the like. The exterior has more recent wooden siding over the original clapboard surface, but otherwise the building, constructed for function, not style, has changed little on the outside, apart from the enclosure of a rear porch on the southwest when the building was resided.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

☐ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☒ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☐ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.
University Club  
Name of Property  

Criteria Considerations  
(Mark “x” in all the boxes that apply.)

A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes  
B. Removed from its original location  
C. A birthplace or grave  
D. A cemetery  
E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure  
F. A commemorative property  
G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance  
(Enter categories from instructions.)  
SOCIAL HISTORY  


Period of Significance  
1940–1965

Significant Dates  
1940

Significant Person (last name, first name)  
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation
University Club
Name of Property

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)
Osler, Willard and Burns, Lee

Period of Significance (justification)
This building was constructed in 1921 as a dwelling, but its significance lies with its long-term identity as the clubhouse for the University Club, which began in 1940 and continues through today.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)
n/a

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)
The clubhouse of the University Club is eligible for the National Register on the local level under Criterion A, owing to its significance in the area of Social History. From the post-Civil War years through the 1950s, Indianapolis boasted scores of clubs catering to all classes, creating opportunities for a rich social life for virtually every citizen. One of the few survivors is the University Club, which not only still exists today, but still maintain a visible home. Originating in the late nineteenth century, the University Club fell upon hard times during the Depression, and then purchased this building from the estate of a member’s widow to begin a new era in 1940. Along with its new clubhouse, which was immediately expanded, the University Club opened its membership with an appeal to younger men by constructing squash courts behind the main building.

While the building is a very fine example of the popular Tudor Revival style that maintains a good degree of integrity, it is not under consideration under Criterion C for its architecture.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)
Constructed in 1921, the University Club building was designed by
the short-lived Indianapolis partnership of Osler and Burns in the popular Tudor Revival style. The brick-and-stucco structure was originally built as a house for Elizabeth Marmon (1849-1940), widow of Daniel Marmon, co-founder of Nordyke-Marmon Company, on the site of their earlier house. The University Club purchased the house in 1940 after Mrs. Marmon died.

As the city grew and matured in the years after the Civil War, Indianapolis began to see the growth of social, cultural, and fraternal clubs, both male and female, many of which were founded by members and descendants of the influential German population that had first arrived in Indianapolis in the mid-nineteenth century. These included various musical societies and the Turnvereinen (health and gymnastic organizations), which ultimately resulted in the building of Das Deutsch Haus (later, the Athenaeum) in the 1890s to house many of them. During this same period fraternal orders, such as the Masons and the Odd Fellows, became wildly popular, and the 1880s and 1890s saw the rise of many similar organizations, frequently housed in their own buildings, that based their rituals and organization largely or partly on those of Freemasonry.

In the late nineteenth century came a surge of new clubs, whether for civic, cultural, charitable, or purely social purposes. Most still were segregated as to gender. Added to the fraternal men’s organizations were vaguely military “marching” clubs, such as the Boys in Blue, which, over 20 years later, evolved into the Gatling Gun Club. Others had political origins, such as the Columbia Club, which evolved out of a marching society that had favored Benjamin Harrison for President of the United States.

The Midwest especially seemed to embrace the joining of clubs in order to improve oneself, make connections, and get ahead, so Indianapolis was not unusual in this regard. In 1907, for example, the city's population was over 230,000 and the City Directory listed no fewer than 65 clubs, not including fraternal lodges, and three double-columned pages of "Miscellaneous Societies." Only a
fraction of any of these remain; fewer still retain their own buildings. Some have consolidated with other clubs; some rent space for their meetings; still others vary their locations and gather at different restaurants or other clubs' buildings around the city.

A product of another age, the University Club, still today a venerable men-only institution, grew out of the Columbia Club and is the second oldest extant men’s social club in the city. The University Club was incorporated in 1898, only nine years after the Columbia Club’s founding. (Some sources say 1894, but evidence seems stronger for the latter date.) Initially, at least, the University Club’s intent was to be a social and intellectual organization based on education, not politics. Benjamin Harrison was its first president, at least nominally. Original shareholders in the club included such eminent citizens as businessmen and civic leaders Fred M. Ayres, Hilton U. Brown, William English, Charles Fairbanks, John H. Holliday, J. K. Lilly, Sr., Albert Lieber; lawyer and naturalist William Watson Woollen; Bishop Chatard; literary giants James Whitcomb Riley, Meredith Nicholson, Booth Tarkington, Lew Wallace; architect Bernard Vonnegut, and artist Theodore C. Steele (some of his paintings hang on the club walls, apparently as payment for his dues!), among many others. The shining stars of the literary and art world were well represented, so there were at least the pretensions to intellectual and cultural purposes.

After meeting briefly in rooms rented in the Columbia Club, the University Club purchased the Ferguson-Fletcher house (long demolished), which stood at the southwest corner of Michigan and Meridian, remaining there about 35 years. A downturn in fortunes during the Great Depression forced the Club to give up this costly white elephant and take rooms at the nearby Indianapolis Athletic Club.

The University Club purchased its current home in 1940 from the Marmon family after the death of the family matriarch, for whom the house had been built. (Her son Howard Marmon was a member,
as his father Daniel had been.) The club's intellectual pretensions had long given way to social, and its membership roster throughout the decades included and still includes descendants of those prominent names mentioned above and others such as Bobbs, Buchanan, Fairbanks, Fortune, Hanna, Pantzer, and many more names well known in business, legal, and philanthropic circles. Being convenient to downtown and yet somewhat away from the hubbub, the club was a popular place for the city’s movers and shakers to quietly discuss strategies, fundraising, and the like over lunch. Diners were gently urged to pony up for the latest YMCA campaign, for example. Less overtly political than its parent Columbia Club (which itself has become less stringently Republican), the University Club nonetheless played a role in much that involved the future of Indianapolis, from industrial expansion—with some concern over unions—to major fundraising for the Community Chest (which evolved into the United Way of Central Indiana.) But all was not business and clandestine discussions; the club was always a popular place to dine in the evening before the theater (often the New York touring companies playing at the English Theater) and/or to stop for drinks and card games after. And there was the ever-popular “Sniff,” a game using dominoes.

If one’s office were downtown, gathering for a luncheon meeting was far easier at the University Club, even though many of the members also belonged to—or were even founders of—country clubs as well, housed much farther away on the edges of the city. Most of these had begun later, in the 1920s (earlier exceptions were Highland, started in 1903, and Woodstock, incorporated in 1915, although originating in the pioneer Indianapolis Country Club in the 1890s). These newer clubs focused on various athletic pursuits, chiefly golf and tennis, as well as social; swimming was the main attraction at the Riviera Club, founded in 1933. They differed from the city clubs, too, in that they were oriented toward family membership, although singles were not discouraged from joining.

Consequently, when the University Club was considering the purchase of the Marmon house in 1940, a group of younger
potential members who wished to join clambered for there to be two squash courts built. The older members acquiesced, for the future of the club depended upon it! These courts, built immediately after the house was acquired, still stand and are still well used.

Society has greatly changed, and the University Club is not as prominent as it once was. Still, it is a busy place at lunch time, with many well known personages discussing civic and cultural affairs over their meals, and the Club hosts numerous social events throughout the year.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information
During the early 1920s, the short-lived partnership of Osler and Burns designed a number of other fine houses in Indianapolis in the 1920s, including those of J. K. Lilly, Jr., C. M. Warner, Dr. Frank Hamilton, and Frank E. Floyd, none of which were Tudor Revival, but rather in the Colonial Revival mode.

Indianapolis native Willard Osler went on to became a partner with Foltz, Osler & Thompson in 1926. Soon after, he went to work for the prestigious Indianapolis firm of McGuire and Shook, where he spent the rest of his professional career. Among his most notable designs were Second Presbyterian, Trinity Episcopal, St. Paul Episcopal, and First Congregational churches, all in Indianapolis, as well as several buildings on the campus of Hanover College and the Student Union at DePauw University. He died in 1978 at the age of 92.

Lee Burns (1872-1957) had founded in 1910 Burns Realty Company, a design and construction company specializing in the design of fine homes. He and Osler formed a brief partnership in the early 1920s, but by 1926 Burns went into partnership with Edward D. James to form Burns and James. They designed numerous upper class homes on Indianapolis’ north side, winning the Society of Architects’ gold medal for best residential design for the William R. Teel home in 1929. In1949 the partners dissolved Burns and James and formed two separate firms, one of which was Burns and
Burns, comprised of Lee and his son David V. Burns. Burns and Burns continued designing traditional homes but also a number of public structures, including buildings on the Indiana State Fairgrounds, several structures for the Parks Department, and many fire stations. Lee Burns is well known to preservationists and architectural historians for his books *Indianapolis, the Old Town and the New* (1923) and *Early Architects and Builders of Indiana* (1935).
9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)


Foltz, Herbert. “Residence Design Was by Osler and Burns.” Indianapolis Star. 4 February 1927.


University Club Records, 1920s-present. (Stored on site.)

University Club
Name of Property

University

Other

Name of repository: University Club (records on site); Indiana Landmarks library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _________________

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _____ less than 1 acre _____________

Use the UTM system

UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927  or  ☑ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16  Easting: 572433  Northing: 440377

2. Zone:  Easting:  Northing:

3. Zone:  Easting:  Northing:

4. Zone:  Easting:  Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

McElwain’s and Latham’s Subdivision, Lot 9, Outlot 173, Parcel 104772.
Bounded on the north by the south side of 10th Street, on the east by the west side of the sidewalk along Delaware Street, on the south by the north edge of Puryear Street (the first alley south of 10th Street), on the west by an imaginary line starting 271 feet west from the west side of the sidewalk along Delaware Street north to 10th Street.
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
This comprises the property purchased by the University Club from the estate of Elizabeth Marmon.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Glory-June Greiff, Historian
organization: Historian-at-Large/ Indiana Landmarks Partners in Preservation Program
street & number: 1753 South Talbott Street
city or town: Indianapolis state: IN zip code: 46225
e-mail: glory@indy.net
telephone: 317-637-6163
date: 4 May 2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn’t need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: University Club

City or Vicinity: Indianapolis
University Club
Name of Property

County: Marion  
State: Indiana

Photographer: Glory-June Greiff

Date Photographed: July 2015

Negatives on file with photographer.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 (of 13): Looking NW at S & E elevations from Puryear Street

Photo 2: Looking NNW at entrance & east façade from parking lot.

Photo 3: Looking NE at south & part of west elevation from parking lot

Photo 4: Looking SSW at north elevation from north yard

Photo 5: Interior, looking SE in living room

Photo 6: Interior, looking WNW into dining rooms

Photo 7: Interior, looking W into kitchen from side stair hall

Photo 8: Interior, looking from 2nd floor down eastward stairs from landing

Photo 9: Interior, looking NE in 2nd floor dining room

Photo 10: Interior, looking W in ladies lounge at original window

Photo 11: Looking NW at squash courts from parking lot

Photo 12: Looking SE at squash courts and part of west elevation of clubhouse from rear of property

Photo 13: Looking W at east facade from Delaware Street.
University Club

Name of Property: University Club

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Marion County IN

County and State
UNIVERSITY CLUB
976 NORTH DELAWARE
INDIANAPOLIS MARION CO IN

10TH STREET

DELAMAR STREET

PARKING

SQUASH COURTS

CLUB HOUSE

PARKING LOT

BOUNDARY

BOTH BUILDINGS ARE CONTRIBUTING
2ND FLOOR, UNIVERSITY CLUB
970 NORTH DELAWARE, INDIANAPOLIS
MARION CO, IN
University Club, Marion Co., photo 0001
University Club, Marion Co., photo 0008

University Club, Marion Co., photo 0011
University Club, Marion Co., photo 0013