

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

Historic Graff's Market

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 27 North Sixth Street not for publication

city, town Indiana vicinity of congressional district 12

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Indiana code 063

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" 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 John Merlo, Esquire

street & number 682 Philadelphia Street

city, town Indiana vicinity of state Pennsylvania 15701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Indiana County Courthouse

street & number Eighth and Philadelphia Streets

city, town Indiana state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pa. Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 3/21/80 federal state county local

depository for survey records Pa. Historical and Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

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

Graff's Market is a three story wooden structure with a stone foundation approximately 30' by 57 1/2'. Its main decorative feature is the cast iron facade covering the front. The other two exterior walls have a covering of plain asbestos shingles. The roof is flat. On the north facade entry is gained through double doors, this side also has eleven windows arranged in an asymmetrical manner. A brick chimney is located on the northeast corner. The rear of the building has two full length open porches running along the upper two stories. The bottom story has a small open porch on one side with the other end being enclosed. There are five windows and three doors on the rear facade. The front facade (west end) with its cast iron is done in a High Victorian Italianate Style. It is four bays wide having a total of eight windows and two doors, one of which is double. The front of the building has remained unaltered in nearly everyway. The rear section of Graff's may be an addition. The south wall is against another building.

There is a name plate on the bottom corner of the cast iron facade with the name of the company that made and sold the cast iron facade (G. W. Mesker or Hesker, Evansville, Indiana).

The interior of Graff's Market follows a roughly rectangular floor plan. It has a ceiling of decorative moulded metal extending from the front of the building approximately halfway back into the structure. The walls are also of metal sheeting with decorative mouldings. The front of the building is a general grocery store, the rear has glass meat display cases. The far rear appears to be a storage area. The floor area under the moulded ceiling is inlaid with hexagonal colored tiles about 3/4" to 1" across. These are laid over a wooden floor. The upper stories are used for apartments.

In 1979 the cast iron facade was restored and repaired by the owner.

Date of the building--Graff's Market was constructed between 1887 and 1892. Cast iron facades were added to the north, east and west sides between 1897 and 1903. (Source: Sanborn Insurance Risk Maps for Indiana Borough, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.)

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

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Graff's Market has the only known extant cast iron facade in the Borough of Indiana. There were others (according to the Sanborn Insurance Risk Maps of 1887, 1892, 1897, 1903, 1910, 1916, and 1930) however, they have either been demolished or the cast iron facades removed or covered during modernization. There were perhaps 10-15 structures of cast iron or partially cast iron according to research done during the Historic Site Survey but to the knowledge of the Survey Team, Graff's Market is the only structure known to have an existing cast iron facade.

Considering the size of Indiana Borough, the number of cast iron or partial cast iron structures once found in Indiana Borough seems sufficient. They were difficult and expensive to maintain and as people wanted progress and new styles they slowly disappeared as a dominant architectural style in Indiana to be replaced by whatever was in vogue.

The Graff Market is important as a commercial site because the family business has been located at this site for at least 90 years. The original store was a small wooden structure which was replaced by the present building. When the business moved into the new structure, Graff's has their own slaughterhouse and two ice ponds where they cut ice in the winter for the large meat coolers that were installed. There was a smokehouse located downstairs until the people living above the store complained about the smoke. Some of the original butcher's equipment is still in use (meat cutters, tenderizers, and knives) as well as an original marble-topped counter.

Graff's Market is important as a commercial site because it is located in the heart of the original Indiana Borough commercial district and it is one of the oldest if not the oldest family owned businesses in Indiana Borough having been owned and operated by the Graff-Muller Family since its establishment in 1880. While other small businesses have opened and closed their doors over the ensuing years this small family owned establishment has survived. It is an excellent example of the small speciality shops of Indiana's commercial history.

Stewart, J. T., Indiana County, Pennsylvania: Her People Past and Present, Vol. II, p. 1429, Chicago: J. H. Beers and Company, 1913.
Indiana County Courthouse, Deed Book, B 38, p. 459; A 51, p. 334; 247, p. 29.
Indiana Evening Gazette, August 22, 1979.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .03
 Quadrangle name Indiana, Pa. Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Maryann Haladay and Gloria J. Berringer
 organization Historical & Genealogical Society of Indiana County date January 28, 1980
 street & number South Sixth and Wayne Avenue telephone 412-463-9600
 city or town Indiana state Pennsylvania 15701

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
Ed Weintraub, Director date
 title Office of Historic Preservation

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

