

Ohio Historic Preservation Office
1985 Veima Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211
614-466-1500



OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

1. No. ERI-1639 2. County ERIE 3. Location of Negatives U.H.S.	4. Present Name(s) Cricket Lodge 5. Other Name(s) John and Beatrice Himmelein Residence																	
6. Specific Location East Lake Shore Dr., two houses east of Division St 7. City or Town If Rural, Township & Vicinity Kelleys Island, Ohio 8. Site Plan with North Arrow 9. U.T.M. Reference <table style="width:100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>17</td><td>35</td><td>75</td><td>20</td><td>46</td><td>05</td><td>88</td><td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Easting</td> <td colspan="4">Northing</td> </tr> </table> 10. Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> 11. On National Register? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Is it Eligible? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13. Part of Estab. Hist. Dist.? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> 14. District Potent'ly? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> 15. Name of Established District K.I. South Shore District	17	35	75	20	46	05	88	0	Easting				Northing				16. Thematic Category Commerce - arts 17. Date(s) or Period 1906 18. Style or Design Vernacular 19. Architect or Engineer 20. Contractor or Builder 21. Original Use, if apparent Residence 22. Present Use Residence 23. Ownership Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 24. Owner's Name & Address, if known Chris Yako 7694 Ann Arbor Dr., Parma, Ohio 44130 25. Open to Public? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 26. Local Contact Person or Organization Kevin Pape:KI.Hist.Survey 27. Other Surveys in Which Included N/A	28. No. of Stories 1 1/2 29. Basement? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> 30. Foundation Material Ashlar 31. Wall Construction Wood frame 32. Roof Type & Material Gable/asph. shingle 33. No. of Bays Front Side 34. Wall Treatment Beveled siding 35. Plan Shape Irreg. 36. Changes (Explain in #42) Addition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> 37. Condition Interior Exc. Exterior Exc. 38. Preservation Underway? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> 39. Endangered? By What? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 40. Visible from Public Road? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> 41. Distance from and Frontage on Road 30'
17	35	75	20	46	05	88	0											
Easting				Northing														
42. Further Description of Important Features (Continue on reverse if necessary) The plan of the house is asymmetrical, and its original structure has been altered by the addition of a full-front screen porch and two single-story rear additions. It has an irregular, steeply pitched roof line with a hipped cross-gable and multi-level eaves. A single chimney is placed along the rear eave wall. Two multi-light double doors open under the front gable to a small																		
43. History and Significance Born on Kelleys Island in 1868, John Himmelein, the builder of this house, was the son of Johan and Johanna Himmelein who came from Germany to settle on the island in 1859. That year they purchased 4 acres on the south shore from Addison Kelley. Beginning with three rooms, over the years his parent developed their home into the largest hotel of its day on the island with																		
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings The house, along with all the homes on this stretch of the south shore, lies on a small bluff above the lake. The wide road following the shore line is lined on both sides by large poplars. New plantings of evergreens and flowering trees enhance this front yard. A 3 car garage lies to the west																		
45. Sources of Information Census Records F.Hamilton Collection, Hayes Presidential Center Sandra Bockerman, F.W. Pape, The Ohio Story, Radio Program, Ohio Bell Co., 7/1/49 (Cont'd.)	46. Prepared by Kevin Pape 47. Organization KI.Planning Commis 48. Date 8/85 49. Revision Date(s)																	

ERI-1639
Erie
Cricket Lodge
John & Beatrice Himmelein Res.

50. House Type No.

Code No. Name

51. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies

Barn Type(s)

Code No. Type

Corn Crib or Shed Smoke House, Privy
 Silo Spring House Carriage House
 Summer Kitchen or Ice House

Other _____

52. Archaeological Site on Property?

Yes
No

Basis for Information

Owner Collection
 Above Ground Earthworks or Mound
 Cultural Materials Noted OAI No. _____

53. Farmstead Plan

□ □



.

.

□ □

54. Photo

Roll No. 7 Picture No(s) 6, 9, 11

42. (Cont'd)

deck on the porch roof. The porch is supported by sawn columns.

43. (Cont'd.)

accommodations for 100 guests. The summer that John was 20 a theatre group known as the Howard Wall's Model Comedy Company booked rooms at the hotel, and from that date John became enamored with the stage. He joined the company becoming its manager, and soon bought it outright. In 1894 he married the company's top star, Bertha Weil, known by her stage name as Beatrice Earle. His stock company was known as The Ideals, and travelled the circuit, returning to Kelleys Island each August to rehearse and plan next season's schedule. They often gave performances in the Town Hall (ERI-1560).

His reputation grew, and Mr. Himmelein became known as the "King of the Repertoire", becoming owner and manager of theatres in Evansville, Ind., Elyria and Sandusky, and owner-manager of 10 stock companies, 5 on the road, and 5 permanent companies in Arizona, Colorado, Washington, Texas and Maryland.

With the coming of the movies his companies broke up in the 1930's. His two local theatres, the Sandusky (built 1908) and the Plaza (built 1917 under the name of The Ivanhoe) were converted to movie houses. The demand of his touring schedule requiring him to be away from the island much of the time, John's brother, Richard, took over management of the family hotel, and in 1906 John built this residence where he and his wife spent their summers. He also had a home in Sandusky, and was elected president of the City Commissioners of that city. He also founded the Western Security Bank, becoming its Director. The house remained in the hands of the family until 1984 when it was sold to the present owner by Mrs. Dorothy Sun, daughter of John.

Dorothy had married Gus Sun whose father, Gus Sun, Sr., had established the Gus Sun Booking Agency. This agency, as of 1970, was reputed to be the oldest in continuous operation in the country. This family also had a summer

OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

ERI-1639 (Cont'd.)
ERIE
O.H.S.

Cricket Lodge / John and Beatrice Himmelein Residence

ERI-1639

Erie

Cricket Lodge

43. (Cont'd.)

residence on the island (ERI-1684). After the sale of her house, Mrs. Sun moved east. She gave the memorabilia and material of her father's theatre and vaudeville troupe to the Sandusky Theatre Museum. The curtain from the old Ivanhoe Theatre had been given to the island's Town Hall (ERI-1560) by Mr. Himmelein when it was converted to a movie house.

44. (Cont'd.)

of the rear of the house and is connected to a rear entrance by a trellised walk. Mr. Himmelein once owned all the land west of his home to Division St., but the adjacent lot was sold to his brother, Charles, in 1905, and in 1925 the corner lot which once was the site of Datus Kelley's Island House was sold to the Village for a park. A strip along the northern boundary of these original holdings still remains providing access to Division Street from the rear of the house. Across Lake Shore Drive and below the bank is a small building which once housed the village water works, and was given to the village for a nominal sum with the understanding that this house would be provided with water with no charge.

45. (Contd'.)

Frohman, Sandusky's 3rd Dimension, 1971
Warranty Deeds
Sandusky Register: 6/17/72
Chris Yako

John and Beatrice Himmelein Hse.