

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **MAY 18 1983**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Lords, William L., House

and/or common Stone House

2. Location

street & number Clear Lake Road, just west of Round Lake N/A not for publication

city, town Fremont v.i.c. vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Steuben code 151

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name McNaughton, Inc.

street & number First National Bank Building, P.O. Box A

city, town Fremont N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46737

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Steuben County Recorder

street & number Steuben County Courthouse

city, town Angola state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>N/A</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Stone House is situated in gently rolling moraine country in extreme Northeast Indiana. A farmhouse on a county road in a quiet rural area, its mood is serene. Seen through a stand of tall pines, surrounded by cornfields against a forested horizon, it belongs there--almost as though it had always been there.

The house is immediately perceived as old, unusual, unexpected. Of course, it is the stone that makes it seem so. Random-laid, faced fieldstone foundations are almost standard for older Steuben County farmhouses, but most are log cabins or frame with white painted board or shingle siding. Here is a structure unique in the county, a whole house of cut stone. Moreover, on the more "public" sides, at least, the stonework, itself, is not at all like other stonework in the area. Fieldstones have been quite accurately squared and faced on five of their six sides, then laid in level bed courses which run consistently across five wall faces. Adding to the squared stone effect, mortar was held level with trowel at the bottom, and at one side of vertical joints, then neatly tucked to the stone at the other edge. A date stone with "1866" carved into its face is set in the south gable. At the rear, walls become faced but uncoursed. Random, yet carefully laid, stones are set in the same buff, coarse mortar. It is evident that at some point the east end of the house developed problems, and was rebuilt in a haphazard fashion.

Other exterior materials are painted wood lintels and sills set in the stone at all openings, plain wood board soffits and fascias at the eaves, double-hung windows set almost flush, panel doors, wood shingle roofs, stuccoed brick chimneys. The north (rear) wing is presently roofed in "5-v crimp" painted galvanized roofing and the west slope of the original house has the same metal roofing over wood shingles.

The T-plan original house has an earth floored cellar under the west wing, crawl space under the east. All first floor joists are peeled logs, possibly tamarack. Obviously a later addition, a long, narrow north wing has fieldstone walls laid by different hands--random stones not so carefully cut, wider joints, another mortar. The wing's west wall starts into an original first floor window, then jogs away at the last minute.

The main (south) entrance is directly into the east wing living room, through a deeply inset door with wood jamb facings. There are seven first floor rooms: A living room and parlor in the east, a bedroom (original kitchen?) and adjoining smaller room, and a bath in the west wing, a kitchen and pantry in the north wing. A steep stair leads from the living room to the second floor where there are one large and two small bedrooms and, through a 4' high door, an east wing loft. Second floor ceilings are clipped, with 5' knee walls.

Windows are 1/1 double-hung except a north pair which are 4/4 barn sash. Three-lite sash are used for basement and low 2nd floor windows. No sash appear to be original. Wood storms have been fitted. One exterior door and seven interior doors are original. These are hand planed and mortised vertical panel doors with a few original surface locksets, porcelain knobs.

Interior finishes consist of 1 1/8" tongue-and-groove oak flooring on first and 3/4" tongue-groove on second. Walls and ceilings are plaster on wood lath over 2x furring on exterior walls, on 2x rough-sawn studs, joists and rafters elsewhere. Casings, trim, base and doors are probably poplar. A high percentage of the interiors seem original, although the north wing was remodeled and an inside bath installed in the west wing. To admit more light through the 21" thick walls, interior jambs are splayed at 45°, giving the window surrounds a broad, expansive feeling out of proportion to the 32" sash width. Two brick stove chimneys are supported on wood shelving bases, one in the living and one in the south, second floor bedroom.

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 type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 C. 1866 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (~~to be completed~~)

The Stone House is significant as the unusual farm home of early settlers in a late frontier area of northeastern Indiana. This landmark house is also significant as admirable folk architecture and as an architectural manifestation of social and cultural forces and events of its period and prior thereto. It is the only known example of a rural home with full-height cut fieldstone walls and internally splayed window openings in Steuben County. Known by everyone in the area, the Stone House is universally admired for its idyllic setting, for its feeling of appropriateness and belonging, and for its striking, honest stonework.

The Stone House was built by settlers who had moved westward along early 19th century migration routes. According to U.S. Census Reports of 1840-1880, the Lords family had roots in Maine, moved to Ohio, to southern Michigan, and finally to Steuben County, Indiana. The Vistula Road, a secondary migration route, ran from western Lake Erie to Chicago and through Brockville (now Fremont) about 3 miles from the Stone House, and was used by many settlers.

William L. Lords, owner of the Stone House, was born in Ohio in 1821, married in Ohio in 1846, had one child born in Michigan, and three in Indiana. Children's birthdates indicate that both he and Henry, his brother, settled with their families in Indiana about 1848.

The Stone House was built in 1866, according to the datestone in the south gable. Had it followed the pattern of its time and location, it would likely have had a wood frame resting on a random laid fieldstone foundation. Foundation walls would have been faced on the exterior, only. This was logical and economic use of plentiful local materials--framing from the hardwood forests being cleared for tillage fields, and rounded, glacially deposited granite stones from the same fields for foundations.

Although plentiful, the cutting of granite stones entailed considerable hand work. Consequently, stones were usually faced, only, or received a few crude bed or edge cuts. Fieldstone is not an ideal building stone, particularly in its "found" rounded condition. Bond is difficult to establish between mortar and dense, smooth granite; stones tend to slide before mortar sets; and walls sometimes crack or fall apart due to the rounded stones' tendency to slip and roll, once the bond is weakened by frost heave, freeze-thaw, or lime erosion. Local builders limited stonework to foundations for these reasons.

Settlers in the east and further south in Indiana and Ohio had an easier time of it with stonework. There, creeks cut through a few feet of earth to limestone bedrock and the "ledgestone" bottoms were quarried for their flat, easily shaped, rather consistently thick slabs. Ledgestone made excellent stonework and whole houses of stone are common in these areas.

In the glacial moraines of Northern Indiana, however, bedrock is buried under thick deposits of sand, gravel and sandy clay containing granite stones from the Canadian Shield rounded by glacial polishing. Creek bottoms are sand or muck, swamps and lakes dot the lowlands. There is no ledgestone--fieldstone was the only stone available to settlers.

If fieldstone walls were difficult and timber readily available, why, in the case of the Lords house, was so much additional time and effort spent to erect full height stone walls and to carefully square cut and accurately course stone for the prominent walls? Such construction ran counter to local patterns and cost economies. The 1860 U.S. Census shows that, residing

9. Major Bibliographical References

In Ball State University Library, Muncie, Indiana:

Pilsbury, Richard, A Field Guide to the Folk Architecture of the Northeastern United States
(Geographic Publications of Dartmouth, No.8)

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Camden Michigan-Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	6	7	8	6	4	0	4	6	2	4	3	9	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point on North right-of-way of Clear Lake Road 335' west of center of Section 18, TWP 38 N., Range 15 E., Clear Lake Civil Twp., Steuben County, Indiana, thence north 200', thence east 110', thence south 200', thence west 110' to point of beginning.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Arthur J. Matott, AIA, Partner

organization Cole, Matott, Riley Architects/Planners date 12-2-82

street & number 123 West Wayne Street telephone 219/426-8205

city or town Ft. Wayne state Indiana 46802-2592

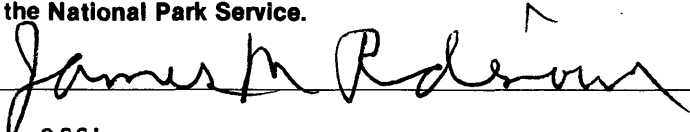
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date April 21, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 6/16/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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date entered

Continuation sheet Lords House

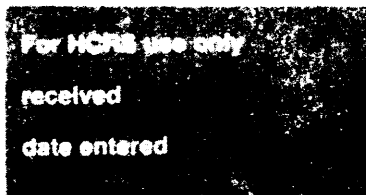
Item number 8

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two dwellings away from William Lords, was A. Cooper, a New York born mason. One can only speculate that Cooper may have been responsible for the unusual stonework, recalling and attempting to duplicate in cut fieldstone the coursed stonework of an eastern apprenticeship, or something recalled from his youth in New York. It is clear that someone made the decision to build a whole house of stone in the patterns of another region, using a resistant local material in an uncommon way.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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LORDS HOUSE (STONE HOUSE) - Clear Lake Township, Steuben County, Indiana

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Continued)

In Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne Indiana:

- U.S. Census Reports Brockville (Fremont) and Clear Lake Townships, Indiana, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880.
- Steuben County Tract Book 1832-1837.
- History of Steuben County, Indiana, 1885 (Inter State Publishing Co., Chicago).
- Morley, H.W. Atlas of Steuben County, Indiana 1880 & 1912 (Angola, Indiana).
- Morley, H.W. History of Steuben County, Indiana 1956 (Angola, Indiana).
- History of Northeast Indiana, Vols 1 & 2, 1920, (Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago & N. York).

In Steuben County Court House, Angola, Indiana:

- Records - Larry Randsburg, Auditor

In Fremont, Indiana:

- Abstracts of Title, Stone House property - G. T. McNaughton, Atty.

Interviews:

- With Mr. & Mrs. F. B. McNaughton, Fremont, IN, 16 July 1982
- With Ms. Ruth Krause, Steuben Co. Hist. Society, Angola, Indiana, 16 July, 1982.
- With Charles Skove, President, Steuben Co. Historical Society, 16 July, 1982.
- With Lee Duguid, author of The History of the Duguid Family in Clear Lake Township, June and July 1982.