United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Name

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Reynolds, James	Culbertson, House			
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Monticello	N/A vicinity of	congressional district		
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Dr. Catharine E.	Logan			
417 North Main S	itreet			
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7. Description

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The James Culbertson Reynolds house is a large brick residence located in Monticello, Indiana. The home was built in 1873 as a farmhouse; the farm has since been subdivided for residential development, but a large parcel (approximately 150' x 155') was retained for the Reynolds home. A two story structure with a hip roof, the house is a classic example of the late Italianate style, with its cubic massing, formal balance, and fine exterior detail. Of particular interest are the intricate design elements on the large front porch and the decorative cornice trim.

The main facade of the house faces west and consists of three bays. The northernmost bay on the ground floor contains the main entryway, which features pilasters on either side of the door, sidelights, and a rectangular transom. The remaining two bays on the ground floor contain large rectangular windows. The second floor also contains three bays, situated directly over the ground floor openings. On this level the middle bay contains a doorway, which opens onto a balcony over the porch roof. This doorway and the double hung windows which flank it have pedimented heads and plain stone sills. This treatment is also employed on the remaining second floor windows in the front section of the house; all other windows have plain stone sills and lintels.

The front porch is one of the most notable features of the house. This porch actually wraps around the entire front section of the structure, covering not only the west but also parts of the south and north facades, as well. The porch roof is supported by tapering wooden columns. Under the porch roofline is a frieze comprised of slender spindles with spool-like ornamentation. This frieze is extended downward to form an arch between the two columns that designate the main entrance to the porch. Spindles similar to those used in this detailing were also used in the original porch railing, according to photographic evidence, but this element has since disappeared.

The top of the porch roof also serves as a balcony for the second floor; accordingly, an ornate cast iron railing runs around the perimeter of the porch roof area. Overall, the decorative elements on this porch are similar to those found on later Queen Anne structures.

At the roofline of the house is an entablature consisting of a frieze and a box cornice. The cornice is supported by large, ornate brackets arranged in pairs at regular intervals. Modillions are situated between these large brackets and serve to decorate the frieze. All of the roof trim, as well as the porch and window detailing, is painted white and provides a strong visual contrast with the red exterior walls.

The interior of the house was remodeled in 1945 to create four apartments. This remodeling included the installation of several kitchens and bathrooms and the addition of an external wooden stairway at the rear of the structure. In 1967 the building was converted back into a single family dwelling and the negative aspects of the 1945 alterations were reversed. Surviving interior design features, including original fireplaces and decorative ceiling moldings, were retained. Woodwork was stripped and refinished and plasterwork was repaired. A modern kitchen was added, the basement was enlarged, and new mechanical systems were installed. Exterior renovation was also completed at this time.

Of the various outbuildings which were originally on the grounds, only two survive. One of these, a frame building originally used as a coal shed, has since been converted into a one car garage. The other building, a small brick structure, was used as a smokehouse.

8. Significance



Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The James Culbertson Reynolds home, built in 1873, was the residence of one of Monticello's most prosperous citizens. Reynolds, who came to Indiana in 1837, was a successful farmer, merchant, and grist mill operator. One of the town's largest landowners, he eventually platted four different additions to Monticello, totaling over 150 acres. He also donated a two acre site for the construction of Monticello's first high school and was instrumental in the construction of the town's Presbyterian Church. From 1848 through 1849 he served as County Treasurer.

The home is also significant for its architectural merit. The house is one of the best examples of the Italianate style remaining in the area, and features large brackets, an ornate cornice and fine exterior detailing. Some elements of the later Queen Anne style can be seen in the front porch decoration, which employs slender spindles with spool-like ornamentation. Long a local landmark, the house was recently renovated and is once again the dominant structure in the neighborhood. uth not verified

9. Major Bibliographical References

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PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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organization	N/A		date	e April, 19	978
street & number	417 N. Ma	in Street	tele	phone 219/5	583-8593
ity or town	Monticell	0	stat	e India	una 47960
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65), I hereby nor	minate this pro	state c Preservation Officer f operty for inclusion in the ocedures set forth by the	ne National Register ar	nd certify that it	Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– has been evaluated
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For NPS use	-	roperty is included in th	ne National Register Entered In The		
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OMB NO. 1024-0018

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Church Gleaner, "Dedication and Semi-centennial," Vol. 1, No. 3, January, 1887, Presbyterian Church of Monticello.

Goodspeed, Weston, <u>Counties of White and Pulaski, Indiana</u>. Chicago: F. A. Battey and Company, 1883

Hammelle, W. H., <u>A Standard History of White County</u>, <u>Indiana</u>. Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1915.

Kingsbury, Ira S., <u>Memories of My Life</u>, San Anselmo, California, 1913. Transcript. Xerox copy of relevant pages is at the Reynolds House; full copy belongs to Howard Congram, R.F.D. 5, Box 104, Monticello, Indiana, 47960.