United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received 201984

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

1. Name

historic	Violett, Wi	lliam N.	, House						
and/or common	Jack Dueck	Residenc	e						
2. Loca	ation								
street & number	3004 S. Main St.					N/A_ not for publication			
city, town	Goshen		X vi	cinity of	-congressie	nal-district			
state	Indiana	code	018	county	Elkhart		C	ode 039	
3. Clas	sificatio	n							
Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisi in process being consi N/A	tion	Accessibl	upied n progress le	enter	ulture mercial ational tainment rnment strial	pari _X_ priv relig scie	vate residence gious entific asportation	
4. Own	er of Pr	opert	У				· ·		
name	Jack Dueck								
street & number	3004 S. Main	n Street							
city, town	Goshen		<u> X vi</u>	cinity of		state	Indiana	46526	
5. Loca	ation of	Lega	Des	cripti	on	-			
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	E]khart	: Countv	Courthou	se				
street & number		• •		d Lincoln	•				
city, town		Goshen	• .		· ·	state	Indiana		
6. Rep	resentat	ion ir	n Exis	sting	Survey	/S			
	Historic Site y for Elkhart		ctures	has this pro	operty been de	etermined e	ligible?	yes Xn	
date May, 197	8				feder	al Xsta	ate cou	unty loca	
depository for su	rvey records De	partment	of Natu	iral Resoi	urces				
city, town	In	dianapol	is	·		state	Indiana		

7. Description

Condition	

<u>X</u>	excellent	 dete
	good	 ruins
	fair	unav

	Check one				
deteriorated	unaltered				
ruins	_X_ altered				
unexposed					

Check one

X_original site

N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The William N. Violett House is a two-story, red brick structure constructed in the Italianate style. The house is built on a granite foundation which supports 16" thick, brick cavity walls. Floor joists are of 3" x 12" native oak. The structure is in excellent condition with no signs of settling or cracking.

Exterior details of the house which are typical of the Italianate style include: Paired brackets which support the wide, paneled soffit; brick arches at window and door heads; a heavy frieze molding below the cornice brackets; and an elongated circular window in the stairwell.

There are few changes that have affected the exterior appearance of the house. The original wood shingle roof has been replaced or overlaid with asphalt shingles. In an 1874 drawing of this house we find two flat-roofed, wooden porches. These porches have been removed, probably due to deterioration, and replaced with enclosed brick porches.

The house is "T" shaped in plan, with the top of the "T" running parallel to Indiana Highway 15 and forming the front wing of the house. This front portion contains the parlor, entry hall, dining room and library on the first floor. The second floor has a stair hall, bathroom and bedchambers. The rear wing has the kitchen, pantry and rear stairway which leads to servants' quarters on the second floor.

Interior finishes consist of oak hardwood floors, plaster walls and very wide moldings around doors and windows, and at the ceiling and floor. These moldings are of poplar, painted white. All doors are of paneled construction. They are made of pine, painted white, and each has a rectangular glass transom above.

The main entry has double doors, each with 12 glass panes and an arched glass transom light. They lead to the entry hall which has as its focal point an elliptical oak staircase. Natural light is provided by an elongated circular window.

This house was built and occupied by William N. Violett; however, no records exist to show when it was actually built. William N. Violett and his wife acquired the 210-acre farm on which the house was built for \$2,000 in 1854. A reasonable estimate may be made by studying a drawing reproduced from the Illustrated Historical Atlas of 1874. This drawing shows the house and surrounding area in very accurate detail. The maturity of landscape plantings would indicate that the house may have been built 20-25 years earlier or during the 1850's, although this evidence is not totally reliable.

A small church-house is also shown to the south of the Violett property and remains in that location today. The property is in a primarily rural setting at the far southern edge of Goshen. The house is set back from the roadway on a large, shady lot. A small brick garage was built to the north of the house between 1910 and 1930. It measures approximately 22 feet square. The hipped roof imitates the style of the roof of the house.

1. Deed Record 15, page 195, Elkhart County Recorder's Office.

8. Significance



Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The William N. Violett House is significant because of its architectural style, as well as its association with the Violett family, who were among the early settlers of Elkhart County. The house, with its high eaveline, carved bracket cornice supports, stringcourse, and segmental brick arches, displays many features of the Italianate style of architecture.

William Violett came from one of the first families to settle in the area. Records show that William Violett arrived in Elkhart County at the age of two years with his parents, Major John Violett and his wife, Chloe. The family settled south of Goshen, near the Elkhart River, in 1828. The Violetts went on to become associated with the earliest development of Elkhart County.

Major Violett and his three sons, Isaac, William, and John, farmed 825 acres on the banks of the Elkhart River, surrounding what is now the town of Waterford Mills. Major Violett's farm was one of the largest in the county. On this property, the Violett Cemetery was laid out (across the highway from this house) where many members of early Elkhart County families are buried. John Violett, younger brother of William, served as sheriff of the county.

William Violett built his impressive farmhouse on a portion of his father's original holdings, probably in the late 1850's. William was something of a gentleman-planter. Well educated, he gained a local reputation as a writer and a poet. He also became known as a reformer because of his advocacy of the temperance cause.

The spaciousness of the home and its distinctive architectural style reflect Violett's position in the community. Violett installed oak hardwood floors, as well as poplar paneling around the doors and windows in the interior of his home. The unique elliptical window which lights the carved, winding staircase is particularly distinctive. Because of these features, the house remains one of the most prominent houses in the area.

Because of its distinctive architectural style and links with one of the oldest families in Elkhart County, the William N. Violett House is one of the most significant houses in the area.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

Acreage of nom Quadrangle nan JMT References	ne Goshen	1.723 Acres		Qua	adrangle scale <u>1:24000</u>
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1. Fo	m Pre	pared By			<u>.</u>
ame/title	Terry Her	schberger			
ganization	LeRoy Tro	yer and Associat	ces c	late A	pril 10, 1980
reet & number	415 Linco	lnway East	t	elephone ²	17/259-9976
ty or town	Mishawaka		ę	state I	ndiana
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Z. J.a		nis property within the	state is:		
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Historic Atlas of Elkhart County, 1874. Chicago: Belden and Higgins, 1875.

History of Elkhart County. Chicago: Chapman, 1881.

Yoder, Harriet. <u>History of Waterford</u>. Paper presented for course requirements at Goshen College, 1934.

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Violett House

Item number 10, Verbal Bndry. Page 2

"Beginning at a spike set in the centerline of the pavement of Indiana State Highway No. 15, and marking the southwest corner of the Northwest One Quarter of Section 27, Township 36 North, Range 6 East; thence north zero degrees and 54 minutes west along the centerline of said highway, 183.5 feet; thence north 89 degrees and 39 minutes east 272.1 feet to an iron stake; thence south zero degrees and 56 minutes west 185.2 feet to an iron stake on the south line of said Northwest One Quarter of Section 27; thence west along said south line of Northwest One Quarter of Section 27, 266.2 feet to the place of beginning. Said above described tract containing 1.14 acres.

Also, commencing at a spike set in the centerline of the pavement of Indiana State Highway No. 15 and marking the southwest corner of the Northwest One Quarter of Section 27, Township 36 North, Range 6 East; thence north zero degrees and 54 minutes west, along the centerline of said Highway, 183.5 feet to the place of beginning of this description thence north 89 degrees and 39 minutes east, 272.1 feet to an iron stake; thence south zero degrees and 56 minutes west, 185.2 feet to an iron stake on the south line of said Northwest One Quarter of Section 27; thence east, along said south line of the Northwest One Quarter, 50.0 feet to an iron stake; thence north zero degrees and 56 minutes east, 235.5 feet to an iron stake; thence south 89 degrees and 39 minutes west, 323.55 feet to the west line of said Northwest One Quarter of Section 27; thence south zero degrees and 54 minutes east, along said west line of Northwest One Quarter and the centerline of the State Highway thereon, 50.0 feet to the place of beginning. Said above described tract containing 0.583 acres." (Mtge. Rec. 323, page 677).

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