

PH0024015

STATE:	INDIANA
COUNTY:	NOBLE
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUN 27 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON: Porter, Gene Stratton, Cabin
~~Gene Stratton Porter State Memorial~~
 AND/OR HISTORIC:
 "The Cabin in Wildflower Woods"

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
~~R.R. #1~~ SE of Rome City
 CITY OR TOWN: Rome City vic. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 4th
 STATE: Indiana CODE: 18 COUNTY: Noble CODE: 113

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

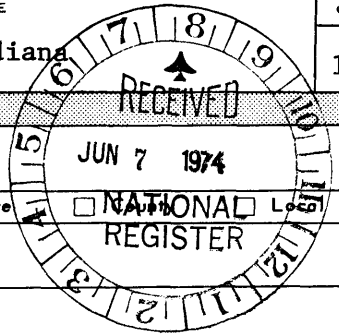
OWNER'S NAME: State of Indiana, Dept. of Natural Resources, Div. of Museums & Memorials
 STREET AND NUMBER: 202 North Alabama Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis STATE: Indiana CODE: 18

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Noble County Court House
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: Albion STATE: Indiana CODE: 18

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Indiana Historic Preservation Survey and Plan
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1972 Federal State
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Department of Natural Resources
 STREET AND NUMBER: 100 North Senate, State Office Building
 CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis STATE: Indiana CODE: 18



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cabin in Wildflower Woods was designed by Gene Stratton Porter and completed in 1914. It is located in the midst of a primeval woods on the south shore of Sylvan Lake near Rome City, Indiana. The home is a two-story, rectangular structure with outside dimensions of 42' X 51'. The exterior walls are built of horizontal white cedar logs, stained in their natural color, and chinked with cement. The house has a cross gable roof and both a center, straddle ridge chimney and a side slope, offset left chimney.

The north (front) and the north half of the east walls of the house are fronted with a two-story, L-shaped porch. A two-story, flat roofed porch also runs along the rear (south) of the house. The first stories of both porches have waist-high stone walls of plain and split fieldstone with verticle log posts supporting the second floor. The second stories of both porches have low, verticle, log walls below the windows and log posts between the windows. They both have flat roofs, are screened, and served as sleeping porches in the summer.

All the windows in the home except in the living room and sun room are two sash with one pane of glass in each sash. The windows in the main section are in pairs and centered. The sun room has two three-sash windows with mullions and transom. The living room has one of the first picture windows in this section of Indiana.

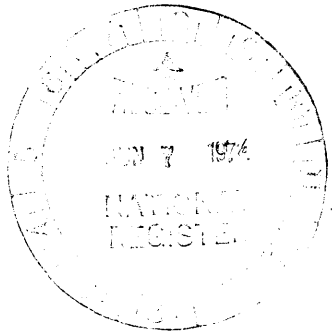
A reception hall, living room, dining room, library, sun room, photographic darkroom, bathroom, and kitchen are located on the first floor. In addition to the two sleeping porches, there are seven bedrooms and two bathrooms upstairs.

The entrance hall and dining room are paneled in wild cherry cut from the region, and various local hardwoods were used for the floors and woodwork of the other downstairs rooms. There are built-in, wild-cherry cabinets in the entrance hall and living room and built-in oak cabinets in the library. The upstairs floors are of oak, while the upstairs rooms are trimmed in maple and hard pine.

One of the most outstanding features of the house is the living room fireplace, which contains a number of carved stone Aztec Indian heads which were brought from Mexico by Mr. Porter. There are also plain and split field stone, fireplaces in the library, living room and in the one bedroom.

The house was originally lighted by gas and heated by gas burners in the fireplaces. After Mrs. Porter left this home permanently in 1919, the bathrooms and kitchen were remodeled, and electric lights were installed. Many of the original gas lighting fixtures were left in place. The important features of the house remain essentially as they were built in 1914. A formal flower garden, orchards, and a small stone pond are also located on the grounds. There was a large log gate house that burned long ago. A log garage and frame service building built after the Porters left the property are nearby.

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Gene Stratton Porter was Indiana's most widely read woman author. Between 1895 and 1920 she wrote twelve novels, seven nature books, a book for children two books of poetry, one book of essays, and numerous magazine articles for Outing, Century, Ladies Home Journal, McCalls, and Good Housekeeping. Mrs. Porter is estimated to have a fifty million readers, and her works were Girl of the Limberlost, Michael O'Halloran, and The Harvester, were made into motion pictures by her own motion picture company were great box-office successes. Mrs. Porter was also a noted naturalist, photographer, and illustrator.

In 1913 Mrs. Porter was already a well established author and naturalist. Much of her success in both of these fields was the direct result of the intimate daily contact she maintained with the magnificent Wilderness of the Limberlost Swamp which surrounded her home near Geneva, Indiana. However, by 1913 most of the swamp had been drained, and Mrs. Porter felt compelled to seek another site for her home and work. She was convinced that she could continue her work only when she was surrounded by an unspoiled natural setting. On the shores of Sylvan Lake near Rome City, Indiana she discovered a primeval woods where a wide variety of wildflowers, trees, shrubs, and wildlife flourished. Mrs. Porter at once recognized this spot as an excellent location for the continuation of her work and began to plan for her new home.

By 1914 the new "cabin" was completed and the Porters moved in. This fourteen-room home, designed by Mrs. Porter, was very similar to her previous home in Geneva. It was one of the most elegant and modern early twentieth century homes ever built in that section of Indiana, and yet it still blended with its natural surroundings. The house was surrounded by 150 acres of land, some of it covered by virgin forest. Mrs. Porter left most of the forest untouched, but did plant some 3,000 rare roots, vines, and shrubs throughout the property. She also developed a formal flower garden, orchards, and a small stone pond.

Mrs. Porter continued her prolific writing career in her new home. During her six year residency she published three novels; Michael O'Halloran (1915), A Daughter of the Land (1918), and Her Father's Daughter (1921), one book of nature studies, Homing With the Birds (1919) and one book for children, Morning Faces (1919). Here she also continued her work as a photographer and naturalist. In addition, a motion picture of her novel, The Harvester, was filmed on location at this home by her own production company. For reasons of health Mr. Porter left Indiana permanently in 1920 and moved to California. She continued to write in California until her death in 1924.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

century

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gene Stratton Porter, Author and Novelist, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks (1969)
 "State Memorials Honor Gene Stratton Porter" by Joan Schaub
Outdoor Indiana Vol. XIV, No.3; June, 1947 pp 6 & 7
 Unpublished Research material in the files of the Division of Museums and Memorials.
A History of Indiana Literature, Arthur Shumaker, Indiana Historical Bureau, 1962

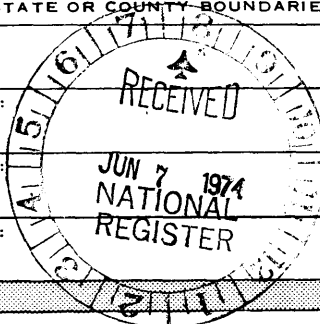
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		ANW 41° 28' 55.5"	85° 20' 58"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		ENE 41 28 55.5	85 20 52	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		ESE 41 28 47	85 20 52	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		ESW 41 28 47	85 20 58	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: About 10 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



NO DATA
CY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Tom Gross, Memorials Field Officer

ORGANIZATION: Division of Museums and Memorials DATE: May 2, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
202 North Alabama Street

CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis STATE: Indiana CODE: 18

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Joseph D. [Signature]
 Title: Indiana State Liaison Officer
 Date: May 31, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/27/74

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of the National Register

Date: 6-26-74

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
INDIANA	
COUNTY	
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(Number all entries) (8) SIGNIFICANCE CONTINUED

In 1947 the state of Indiana was presented with approximately 13 acres of land containing the "Cabin in Wildflower Woods", the formal flower gardens, orchard, pond, natural glades, and virgin woods. Since 1947 the grounds and home have been maintained by the State of Indiana as the Gene Stratton Porter State Memorial.

