

PH000384!

STATE:	INDIANA
COUNTY:	ADAMS
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
~~Limberlost State Memorial~~

AND/OR HISTORIC: Limberlost Cabin

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 200 East. 6th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Geneva CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 10th

STATE: Indiana CODE: 18 COUNTY: Adams CODE: 001

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 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, Department of Natural Resources, Div. Museum & Memorials

STREET AND NUMBER: 202 North Alabama Street

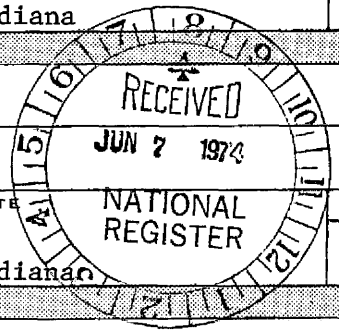
CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis STATE: Indiana CODE: 18

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Adams County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: Decatur STATE: Indiana CODE: 18



6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Indiana Historic Preservation Survey & Plan

DATE OF SURVEY: 1972 Federal State County Local

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:	Indiana
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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

Limberlost Cabin, completed in 1895, is a 14 room (including entrance hall and attic) 1 1/2 story structure approximately 30' X 54' facing north on East 6th Street in Geneva, Indiana. The house has a "T" floor plan with the stem of the "T" as the front of the house. Clearly eclectic in style, sections of the house represent different types of architecture. The stem of the "T" facing the street has a gambrel roof with a pedimented dormer on each side. The Greek revival impression of the dormers is repeated in the cross of the "T" which has a return on the gable end that is clearly Greek revival in feeling. The back portion of this cross section has a roof line that breaks into less slope on a level with the front return to give a modified "salt box" roof line in the rear. The fish scale redwood shingles on the upper portion and roof are stained to match the color of the horizontal white cedar logs from Wisconsin on the first floor. The unhewn logs on the first floor are six to ten inches in diameter and notched at the corners with the ends extending about a foot. Brick chimneys are located toward the back of the front section ridge of the roof and one on the back slope of the roof. The foundation is of hewn stone blocks and rises higher under the conservatory windows on the west than the rest of the house.

With the exception of the conservatory all windows in the house are two sash, with single paned lower sections and multiple paned (16 to 28) upper sections. The solarium is a rounded projection on the west side of the house with six large multi-paned windows. At the southeast corner of the home is a gazebo-like porch with a solid, verticle log railing and log posts supporting the roof. The north and the north half of the east walls are fronted with a one story open shed roofed porch with a solid verticle log railings and log posts supporting the roof. The house has a parcel basement of coursed, cut stone. The library 20' X 14' has a large window in the north wall and three small windows in the east wall. There is a fireplace in the south wall with doors on either side. Above the fireplace, along the entire west wall, and between all windows on the north and east walls are built-in bookcases of oak. The room is paneled in quarter-sawed oak. The door to the west of the library leads to the dining room. The door to the east of the fireplace leads to the music room.

The dining room 21' X 14' has wainscoting of quarter-sawed oak and plaster moldings of a native plant called "Solomon's Seal" on the ceiling. There is a fireplace with a three-cornered cupboard of oak above it in the north-east corner of the room. There are also built-in oak cabinets along the south wall and in the northwest corner of the dining room. A doorway in the south wall of the dining room leads to a back hallway, and a doorway in the south wall leads to the music room. The conservatory is reached by double French doors at the west end of the dining room. The principal feature of the conservatory is a large, four-panel bay window. Each panel of the window has 36 panes of glass.

The music room 20' X 18' has plaster wainscoting and ornate plaster moldings of musical instruments along the top of the walls and on the ceiling. There is a fireplace in the northwest corner; a doorway to the library in the north wall; a large window in the east wall; and two doorways in the south wall. There are sliding oak doors between the entrance hall, library, dining room, and music room. The doorway at the east end of the music room's south wall leads to a bedroom 14' X 10'. This room has a fireplace in the southwest corner; a window in the east wall, and a window and door to the outside in the south wall. The outside door leads to the gazebo-like porch.

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

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE INDIANA	
COUNTY ADAMS	
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(Number all entries) (7) DESCRIPTION CONTINUED

The doorway at the east end of the music room's south wall leads to another bedroom 13' X 11'. This room has a fireplace in the southwest corner; two windows in the south wall; and a door leading to the back hall in the west wall.

The back hallway leads to the back stairway; a kitchen 13' X 12' in the southwest corner of the house, and a bathroom 10' X 7' to the east of the kitchen. The bathroom and kitchen both have built-in oak cabinets and oak wainscoting.

There is a barn behind the house at Limberlost. This is a double-cabin two story barn with a dog trot one story in height through the center. It is built of the same kind of Wisconsin white cedar logs that are used in the house. Some time ago one cabin was converted for residential use but the exterior looks like it did when constructed.

The Limberlost grounds also contains a log gazebo, a smokehouse made out of a log, the old pump, and many birdhouses. The interior of the house is furnished much like Gene Stratton Porter left it. The only alterations to the building have been to modernize portions of the interior. These do not destroy the atmosphere, which remains much as Mrs. Porter must have left it.



6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian;	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1895 to 1914**

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 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Gene Stratton Porter was Indiana's most widely-read woman author. 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 had fifty million readers, and her works were translated into seven foreign languages and braille. Three of her novels, Girl of the Limberlost, Michael O'Halloran, and The Harvester, were made into motion pictures and were great box-office successes. Mrs. Porter was also a noted naturalist, photographer, and illustrator. In 1895 Mrs. Porter, then 32 years old, her husband, Charles, and her daughter, Jeannette, moved into their new home which they called "Limperlost Cabin" in honor of the great Limberlost Swamp which stretched for many miles just south of their home. Local residents had named this area "Limperlost" after an early surveyor of the area, "Limper Jim" Corbus, was lost in the quicksand of the swamp.

Limperlost Cabin was a fourteen-room log structure designed by Mrs. Porter to be elegant while still blending with its magnificent natural surroundings. Very few log homes were built during this period which could match the Limberlost Cabin for either size or elegance. It is certainly both one of the largest and most elegant log homes of this period still remaining in Indiana.

It is an adaptation of rustic log architecture to the forms and styles of the late 19th Century and a effort to keep the comforts of gentil living in the rustic atmosphere of the Limberlost swamp.

Mrs. Porter loved to explore and study her magnificent natural surroundings, but she always maintained a near reverential respect for nature in its original state. She scrupulously avoided destroying even the tiniest part of the life she studied. Rather, she observed and internalized her surroundings. This internalization allowed her to reproduce in her writings, photographs and illustrations the intense life-like representation of nature which even other noted naturalists find allusive.

During her first several years at Limberlost Mrs. Porter wrote, photographed and illustrated several magazine articles on nature studies. In 1903 her first book, Song of the Cardinal, was published. This was a fictional work, but was interwoven with fact and contained many of her nature photographs and water-color illustrations.

From 1903 to 1913 Mrs. Porter published five more novels: Freckles (1904) At the Foot of the Rainbow (1907) A Girl of the Limberlost (1909), The Harvester (1911), and Laddie(1913). While living at Limberlost she also published five books of Nature Studies: What I Have Done With Birds (1907), Birds of the Bible (1909), Music of the Wild (1910), and Moths of the Limberlost (1912).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gene Stratton Porter, Author and Naturalist, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks (1969)
 "State Memorials Honor Gene Stratton Porter" by Joan Schaub - Outdoor Indiana Vol. NV, 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

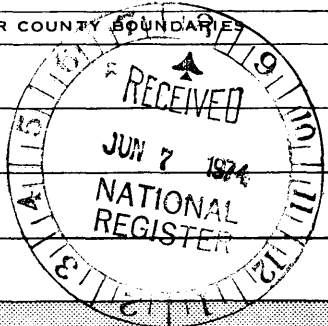
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40 ° 35 ' 23 "	84 ° 57 ' 35 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
 16/672650,
 4494700
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1.2 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Thomas Gross, Memorials Field Officer

ORGANIZATION: Division of Museums & 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 Poland

Title: Indiana State Liaison Officer

Date: May 31, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. R. Mortensen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/27/74

ATTEST:

Wm. H. Mortensen
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6-26-74

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(Number all entries)

(8) SIGNIFICANCE CONTINUED

Virtually all of the fiction written by Mrs. Porter was interwoven with facts about nature, and many of the characters depicted in her novels were actually composites of several of her real-life acquaintances. Since Mrs. Porter wrote of the lives and locales that were familiar to her, visitors to her Limberlost home can still see many of the places described in her novels. These include the "Dream Girl's Porch", "Freckles Window", "The Harvester's Fireplace", and "Dream Girl's Room".

By 1913 the magnificent Limberlost Swamp had been drained and Gene Stratton Porter sought another site for her home and work. In 1914 Mrs. Porter, now a world-famous author, moved from Limberlost to her new home on Sylvan Lake near Rome City, Indiana. Here she wrote 3 novels, one book of nature studies, and a children's book. In 1920 she left Indiana permanently and moved to California for reasons of health. She continued to write in California until her death in 1924.

Limberlost Cabin was presented to the State of Indiana in 1947 by the Limberlost Conservation Association of Geneva. It has been maintained by the state as "Limberlost State Memorial" since 1947.

