

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received **NOV 5 1984**

date entered **DEC 6 1984**

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

**1. Name**

historic Dr. David J. Loring Residence and Clinic

and/or common Valparaiso Woman's Club

**2. Location**

street & number 102 Washington Street N/A not for publication

city, town Valparaiso N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Porter code 127

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Community Ctr.</u>
			<u>Women's Club</u>

**4. Owner of Property**

name Valparaiso Woman's Club

street & number 102 Washington Street

city, town Valparaiso N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46383

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Porter County Courthouse, Recorder's Office

street & number 16 E. Lincolnway

city, town Valparaiso state Indiana 46383

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

## 7. Description

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Dr. David J. Loring Residence and Clinic is a 2 1/2 story, rectangular brick structure with a basement, located on a corner lot in Valparaiso's downtown area. Styled in the Colonial Revival mode, the building has a hipped roof with three gabled dormers, a projecting gable, and a flat-roofed veranda which extends across the front and most of the south side of the building.

The main facade faces west (Photo #2). The basement level is covered with rock-faced stone which continues around the exterior. The basement has a number of simple, double-hung sash windows, with entries on the main and south facades providing direct access to the basement level.

The main level of the front facade is three bays wide and sheltered by the veranda. Round white columns with Corinthian capitals support the veranda roof. A black wrought iron railing (not original) runs along the edges of the veranda.

The main entrance is accessed by stone steps, which have wrought iron handrails and a center railing. It is located in the center bay of the main facade and consists of a wooden door with an upper light. The door is flanked by paired Corinthian columns and pilasters situated on pedestals, supporting an elaborate entablature. All are made of carved limestone. A large rectangular window with a transom of beveled leaded glass is located on each side of the doorway. Each window has a limestone, keystone lintel and sill. All windows on the first level are of this design. All windows on the structure have been covered by aluminum storm windows.

On the second level there are two large, rectangular windows which are similar to the first level windows except for the absence of keystone lintels. A wide wood cornice is located above the windows and extends around the exterior.

The south facade is five bays wide on the main level. It also faces the street and is similar to the main facade. The veranda extends about two-thirds of the way across the exterior and shelters an entry similar to the main entry. Narrow windows frame the doorway.

A large window is located on the west end of the facade and a smaller window on the east end. On the second level, three large windows are aligned with the entry and end windows below.

Of simple design, the north facade has a projecting center bay (Photo #2).

The east rear facade has a service porch sheltered by a roof which is supported by four round columns with Corinthian capitals; two are engaged columns (Photo #3).

The hip roof is clad in red tile. The Woman's Club restored the original red tile roof, which had been replaced by an asphalt roof. The roof has a dormer on all but the north side, which has a gabled projection. Each dormer, finished with wood, fish-scale siding, has a triple window design highlighted by a carved wood rising sun over the center window, suggesting Palladian proportions. A red tile gable roof tops each dormer and has a classic roof return on which red tile rests. An interior brick chimney is offset on the east end of the roof ridge.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) medicine

**Specific dates** 1905-06 **Builder/Architect** Charles Lembke

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Dr. David J. Loring Residence and Clinic, now known as the Valparaiso Woman's Club, is significant as the residence and medical clinic of Dr. David J. Loring, a prominent Indiana physician and surgeon at the turn of the century. It is also important as the 61-year home of Valparaiso's Woman's Club, which has been very active in social philanthropic, cultural and educational activities during its 89-year history in Valparaiso.

The house was built in 1905 by Dr. Loring, who had moved to Valparaiso in 1882 to practice medicine. He had studied medicine at Rush Medical College in Chicago, Bellevue Hospital in New York, and in Cincinnati. He began his medical practice in Francesville, Indiana. Upon moving to Valparaiso, he was instrumental in organizing the first medical society in Porter County in 1883, and remained active in the society throughout his life, serving in such capacities as secretary and censor. He was also vice-president of the Indiana State Medical Association in 1904 and 1905. In 1891, he established a private hospital, which accommodated 12 patients. It was the first hospital in Porter County which, until this time, had had no facilities for patients who could not be properly treated at home. In 1906, he sold the hospital to the Christian Church, and the hospital became known as Christian Hospital and Training School for Nurses.

In 1905-06, Dr. Loring commissioned Charles A. Lembke, a prominent contractor, to build a house on the Hamell lots, which he had purchased. Lembke had built many downtown area buildings, such as the Memorial Opera House (National Register, 1984), Carnegie Public Library, Hotel Lembke, and several local schools. The house was built as a combination residence and clinic with the clinic located in the basement and the living quarters on the three upper floors. Sometimes, patients who came for treatment and were not well enough to go home were housed on the upper floors of the house for a few days.

Dr. Loring resided and practiced medicine in this house until his death in 1914. The house was then sold to another doctor who later sold it to the Elks Club. The Elks Club sold it to the Valparaiso Woman's Club for \$30,000 in August, 1924.

The Valparaiso Woman's Club was founded in 1895 as a literary and social group called the Ladies' Reading Circle which, during its first year, collected the first books to start a public library in Valparaiso, and later donated the first \$25.00 to purchase the lot where the Carnegie Library was built. In 1896, the club's name was changed to the Harriet Beecher Stowe Reading Circle and later to the Harriet Beecher Stowe Club. While Mrs. O. P. Kinsey was president, it became the Valparaiso Woman's Club, affiliated with the Indiana Federation of Clubs and the General Federation of Clubs in 1904. In 1924, the club of 247 active members was incorporated as a non-profit, cooperative association for the purpose of charity and education.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Valparaiso, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	6	4	9	4	9	3	0	4	5	9	0	6	0	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** Starting at the intersection of Washington and Jefferson Streets, go north on Washington to the east-west alley, east to the north-south alley, south to Jefferson, west to Washington. Property is one-quarter of a city block.

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title (a) Bertha Stalbaum  
(b) Alice Vietzke

organization Valparaiso Woman's Club

date 6-11-84

(a) 153 Franklin Street

street & number (b) 3303 Pines Village Cir., Apt. 142

telephone 219/462-9511

city or town Valparaiso

state Indiana 46383

## 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 10-18-84

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

12-6-84

Keeper of the National Register

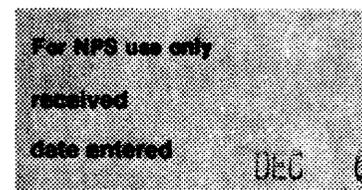
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation sheet Dr. Loring Res. & Clinic      Item number      7 and 9      Page      1

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The interior of the house is highlighted by the elaborate wood carving of the stairway and landing, which features a colonnade of wooden Corinthian columns supported by wood paneled pedestals (Photo #4). All of the woodwork is believed to be imported from the Black Forest in West Germany. The fireplace in one of the parlors is intricately detailed with carved lions' heads on both corners of the mantel (Photo #5). A concert grand piano is located in the East Room, which is a popular place for piano recitals (Photo #6). Many of the original furnishings remain, as the Elks Club presented all furnishings of the building, such as rugs, draperies and furniture, to the Woman's Club. There have been few changes to the building. In 1949, a colonnade separating the middle and west parlors was removed, and the doorway into the east parlor was also enlarged.

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Item number 9

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History of Indiana Federation of Clubs, 1939.

History of Porter County. Lewis Publishing Company: Chicago-New York, 1912.

A Medical History of the State of Indiana. G. W. H. Kemper, M.D. American Medical Association Press, 1911.

Messenger. Valparaiso, Indiana, December 31, 1914.

Post-Tribune. Gary, Indiana, February 13, 1975.

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Continuation sheet Dr. Loring Residence & Clinic Item number 8 Page 2

After the purchase of Dr. Loring's Residence, the club refurbished and formally dedicated the building on September 21, 1925. It was renamed the Sara Porter Kinsey Memorial in honor of Mrs. O. P. Kinsey, former club president and wife of a past Valparaiso University president; she was the first woman to contribute to the club building fund.

The Club is organized into a number of departments, such as civic, literary, and home economics, and has been involved in numerous and diverse activities throughout its 89 year history. The Club has provided meeting places for many women's organizations in the club rooms on the building's first floor, which is also frequently used for music recitals, wedding receptions, and anniversary celebrations. The rental fees help maintain the building. The second and third floors contain sleeping rooms for rental to working women, and the basement has been used for many community projects, and recently has been rented out as two apartments.

During the Great Depression, a large relief room was opened in 1930 in the basement, and clothing, bedding and food were collected and distributed to families in need; 280 families were helped the first year. Later, the Red Cross was given room in the basement and donations increased. At the time of a flood in southern Indiana, clubwomen were the first to assist flood victims with three, eight-ton truckloads of necessities. After 13 years, the relief room was closed and was used by the Girl Scouts, with all troops in Valparaiso meeting there for several years. In 1939, the clubhouse was the home of the Porter County branch of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. The clubrooms have also been used for church services by a new religious organization for several months.

The Woman's Club was responsible for a number of civic projects. They provided Valparaiso's first public women's restrooms, which were located in the Courthouse, and paid the salary of a restroom matron until the county assumed the responsibility. Deploring the conditions of the old cemetery, the club cleaned up and maintained it until the city took over. The club donated the first cooking stove used in the Valparaiso Public Schools.

Through the years, contributions were made to many Federation and local projects, including the sale of goods made by the blind, parties and gifts to the Norman Beatty Mental Hospital, an annual Party at the Porter County Home for the aged, and \$1,000 to the Porter County Council of Church Women to build Whispering Pines Home for Senior Citizens. Great interest in education has been expressed through many scholarships in art, nursing, music, and for Latin American students. The club also sponsors excellent art and music programs. The club's newspaper salvage program has funded a scholarship at Valparaiso University for two students annually. A poetry contest for high school students is held each year, as is an Art Fair featuring the work of local artists.

The David J. Loring Residence and Clinic remains in good condition, enabling the Woman's Club to continue its valuable service. The downtown location of the structure and the public spirit of the club members makes the site an ideal community center.