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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FINAL - No sig

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Indiana
COUNTY:	Warrick
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Stone House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Roberts-Morton House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
River Road SR 662 1 1/2 mile east of Newburgh

CITY OR TOWN:
Newburgh

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
8th

STATE: Indiana CODE: 18 COUNTY: Warrick CODE: 173

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"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
University of Evansville

STREET AND NUMBER:
1800 Lincoln Avenue Box 329

CITY OR TOWN:
Evansville

STATE:
Indiana

CODE:
47701

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Warrick County Assessor' Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Warrick County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Boonville

STATE:
Indiana

CODE:
173

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Building Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Historic American Building Survey Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington, D. C.

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

The exterior of the Roberts-Morton house retains most of its original architectural character. Under construction in 1833, the house was completed and occupied by the Gaines Head Roberts family in 1834.

The house combines Federal, Palladian, Germanic and Greek-Revival features. Built as a rectangle generally 50' x 32', the two story structure is surmounted by a gable roof of low pitch which is minimized at each gable end by two protrudent chimneys united above the peak by a flat section. This gable feature permits the inclusion between the chimneys of a full size attic window as well as a window on the first and second floors, the only windows on the gable ends of the building. The South or main facade is symmetrical with a central door on the first and second floors flanked, in each instance, by two windows. As in most Palladian buildings the principal facade is more formal than the rest. In this case the articulated cut stone is dressed with subtle quoining joining the rigid corner blocks into the random ashlar end walls. The window size is also larger than elsewhere in the building, originally requiring 12 over 6 light sash where the balance of the building called for 6 over 6 lights. However, dressed stone window and door frames are used universally throughout. This permitted the sash to be let directly into the sandstone frame. Even the cornice on the main elevation is of dressed stone with an incised drain to catch water from the originally shingled roof. Along with the oversize windows an impressive Federal feature of the main facade is the round-headed principal entrance doorway. The heavy dressed stone door surround is interlocked at the apex by a sandstone keystone. An original fan light above solid double doors provided the only exterior light in the front hallway. The presence of an original center door at the second floor level indicates that the building was originally designed to receive a balcony, a first floor entrance porch roof, or as it did somewhat later, a two story portico. The earliest photograph of the main facade, about 1890, shows what would appear to be an original two story Greek-Revival portico. Precisely when this was attached to the facade is not documented. However, stylistically it could have occurred between 1845 and 1865. Inasmuch as the original builder and occupant of the house, Gaines Head Roberts died in 1863 and the subsequent social history of the house would not appear to support stylistic improvement or investment in the house, the addition of the two story portico was most likely made in Roberts lifetime. Judge Roberts' first wife died in 1854 and he remarried in 1856. This may have been when the change was made. The two story portico covered in part the keystone of the rounded doorway. The double-porches were somewhat shallower than they are now and were built on a foundation of random stone, less formal than the dressed stone foundation which it abutted.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

continued

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Indiana	
COUNTY Warrick	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries) 7. Description (continued)

Although symmetrically organized, the rear facade of random ashlar with three second story windows and two doors and three windows on the first story, is reminiscent of German architectural precedent. The walls are of substantial dimension: 36" wide in the basement and 32" wide above grade to the roof. The interior of the house has generally retained its original plan. The first floor contained a central stair hall flanked by four rooms. The second floor repeated the plan. The room at the Northeast corner of the first floor contained a kitchen fireplace and oven and a secondary staircase to the second floor, providing the only access to the two second floor rooms on the east end of the house, which were not connected to the second floor hall. Each room had a fireplace. The double hung wood sashes were set in stone jams and the exterior doors were fastened to the stone jams with wrought iron I bolt hinges. Following the death of Judge Roberts in 1863 the house was inherited by his son Rufus. Within a few years the house passed into other hands and was subsequently purchased by Frank Bethell. For twenty years caretakers occupied only a part of the house. Repairs were made to the house in the late 1890's when title passed into the hands of Dr. Westly Wilson. During the decade of the 1920's the house was used by Dr. and Mrs. Hollinger as a sanitarium. Then in 1931 Thomas J. Morton, Jr., purchased the house. At this time the deteriorating mid-century portico was removed, a frame summer kitchen attached to the Northeast corner of the building was replaced by a yellow brick wing; and mechanical and physical improvements were made on the interior- all, however, with a high regard for retaining the original character of the interior. In 1936-37 Mr. Morton embarked on a major restoration program. A new two story portico recalled the original one, the yellow brick wing was rebuilt in a style more sympathetic to the historic house and major improvements were made on the interior, again all respecting the original floor plan and architectural detailing.

The Roberts-Morton house is situated in a beautifully landscaped estate of about ten acres which has been given to the University of Evansville to be used by them when the present occupants and donor no longer wish to use it. The house, located on a hill, overlooks the Ohio at a point on the river's longest straight stretch from Cincinnati to Cairo. The land adjacent to the ten acres is held in large estates.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input 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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Roberts-Morton house is significant for historical, architectural, political, and economic reasons. It is one of the earliest houses of any magnitude in the county, and its original owner, Gaines Head Roberts, was one of the area's earliest and most prosperous citizens. An excellent businessman, he purchased government land to establish the Roberts Wood Yard. His logs were sold to passing steamboats used to move passengers and cargo along the Ohio River. The house was a center for social and political life for Gaines Roberts served both as judge of Warrick County and as democratic senator in the state legislature. The late State Senator G. H. Hazen, editor of The Boonville Enquirer, a grandson of the Gaines Roberts was also born in this house.

The house is situated on a hill where a stockade had once stood in earlier years to protect the pioneer settlers from the Indians. It is believed to have been a stop in the underground railroad.

Possibly its greatest significance is in its architecture and construction. Gaines Roberts imported two masons from Germany to supervise the quarrying of the sandstone at Rock Island near Cannelton. The stone was then barged down the river, a distance of almost a hundred miles to a point about two miles from the building site. They were then loaded on ox carts and pulled to the construction site where the German masons supervised their dressing and laying. The architect of the house is unknown, but a Reinhardt is credited with being the contractor. He may well have been one of the German masons.

The house stands today as one of the finest examples of Federal architecture in Southwestern Indiana. It contains almost all the characteristics of the large Federal building. Wilbur Peat says in his book Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century, that it is one of the most imposing of houses of this sort in Indiana. It is fortunate that in its 140 years it has not suffered destructive changes, for it is among the few stone block houses remaining from this period. Howard Wooden in his book The Architectural Heritage of Evansville goes afield from Evansville to use the Roberts-Morton house as an example of Federal architecture in the large building. Its inclusion in the Historic American building survey bespeaks its significance.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Peat, Wilbur. Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century.
Published by the Indiana Historical Society 1962.

Wooden, Howard E. Architectural Heritage of Evansville.
Published by Evansville Museum of Arts and Science.

B. W. Duck & Associates. An Appraisal of the Roberts-Morton House.

Warweg, Earl and Jack Wesley. Plans of the Roberts-Morton House prepared for the American History Building Survey.

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	0 ' "	0 ' "		N37° 56 ' 10 "	W87° 22 ' 42 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: *less than 2*

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Indiana		Warrick	172
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: *Wallace B. Graves*
Wallace B. Graves, President

ORGANIZATION: University of Evansville

DATE: July 10, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 1800 Lincoln Avenue Box 329

CITY OR TOWN: Evansville

STATE: Indiana

CODE: 47701

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 _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS