

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**For HCRS use only**

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

received

date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic William Conner House

and/or common Conner House

**2. Location**

street & number 30 Conner Lane \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Noblesville  vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 5th

state Indiana code 018 county Hamilton code 057

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Earlham College

street & number National Road West

city, town Richmond \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Indiana 47374

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Recorder

street & number Hamilton County Courthouse

city, town Noblesville \_\_\_\_\_ state Indiana

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Indiana Historic Sites &  
title Structures Inventory

has :

date 1978

Post-it® Fax Note		7671	Date <u>10-7-03</u>	# of pages <u>5</u>
To	<u>DAVID KROLL</u>		From	<u>F. HURDIS</u>

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved      date

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

The Conner House sits on a kind of bluff, overlooking a vast farm field that lies between the house and the White River. The yard is surrounded on three sides by a stone retaining wall. The rear faces a gravel road that connects the house with the other buildings making up the Conner Prairie Pioneer Settlement. This house is the only structure in the Settlement on its original site -- others have been moved in from other parts of the state or are new construction. The Settlement is a living museum, and a major tourist attraction for the area.

The house was renovated in the 1930s by the late Eli Lilly, founder of the Eli Lilly pharmaceutical company. The two-story Federal style house has a one-story kitchen addition at the south end of the back, which was rebuilt from partial ruin during the 1930s renovation. The foundation of the house is coursed stone. Walls are of red brick which were fired on the site, and are laid in common bond, except for the side facing the river, which is Flemish bond. The roof is wood shingles.

The river side features a full two-story gallery porch. This porch, and the window shutters featuring an acorn cut-out at the top of each, date from Mr. Lilly's renovation. This side is five bays across with six over six window sash in each bay. The central bay on the ground floor is a double door with transom. Openings here, as on the rear of the house, are flat-arched.

The rear of the house, which faces the road, has a one-story porch which extends across the back and along the side of the kitchen. This was probably built in the 1930s, along with a well that stands over the right side. A curved brick oven projects from the wall of the kitchen.

The interior of the house features a central hall with stairway, and four large rooms, two on each floor. Each room has a fireplace on the outside wall, with simple Adamesque designs, flanked by wall cabinets, one on each side. Most woodwork is simple and painted.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

Specific dates 1823

Builder Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The William Conner House is significant as a good example of the Federal style of architecture, and for the role of its builder, William Conner, in the settlement and development of central Indiana.

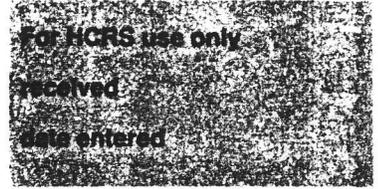
William Conner (1777-1855) and his brother, John, conducted a profitable trade with the Indians in Indiana. William was married to Mekinges, a daughter of Chief Anderson, of the Delaware Indians, and they opened a trading post on the White River in 1802. William served as a guide in Ohio during the War of 1812, and in 1818 witnessed the signing of the Treaty of St. Mary's, which extinguished all Indian titles to central Indiana. His wife and children left with the other Delawares, and in 1823 he built this house for his new white wife and their child.

In 1825 the General Assembly named him to be one of the three commissioners to lay out a road from Indianapolis to Fort Wayne. After his brother's death in 1826, William maintained John's interest in a store in Indianapolis, as well as operating his many farms, mills, and a distillery until the late 1840s. In 1830 William Conner became one of the founders of the Indiana Historical Society, and in 1831 joined a movement to promote common schools.

Conner sold his household goods in 1837 and left his farming operations in the care of a son, moving his residence nearer to Noblesville, where he remained active in commerce until his death.

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Continuation sheet Verbal Boundary Description      Item number      10

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The boundaries are a stone retaining wall on the north, west, and south sides of the house, and a gravel road on the east. The boundary runs parallel to and 27½ feet from the north wall, parallel to and 70 feet from the west (front) wall, parallel to and 50 feet from the south wall, and parallel to and 60 feet from the east wall of the kitchen. The property measures 127 feet across by 169½ feet deep.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Peat, Wilbur D. Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1962, page 18, Plate 23.  
Thompson, Charles N. Sons of the Wilderness: John and William Conner. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1937.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Fishers, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	6	5	8	2	7	0	0	4	4	2	6	2	6	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

See Continuation Sheet

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

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Myron Vourax, Director

organization Conner Prairie Pioneer Settlement

date November, 1979

street & number 30 Conner Lane

telephone 317/773-3633

city or town Noblesville

state Indiana

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12-5-79

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register