

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

FINAL

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Halsted, Melvin A., House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

201 East Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Lowell

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Indiana

— VICINITY OF

CODE

018

COUNTY

Lake

CODE

089

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Alice Jane Hunt Erlandson, c/o Mrs. Mary Miles, Real Estate Agent

STREET & NUMBER

249 Mill Street

CITY, TOWN

Lowell

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana 46356

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Auditor's Real Estate Department, Lake County Government Complex

STREET & NUMBER

2293 North Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Crown Point, Indiana 46307

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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

Constructed in 1850, the Melvin Halsted House in Lowell, Indiana, is a simple two story rectangular mass five bays long with solid end walls; a one story lean-to is attached to a rear (northwest) corner. The house is aligned with its major axis parallel to the street; the main (south) elevation consists of five bays of regular fenestration grouped around a central doorway. The rear (north) elevation has four windows whose regular spacing corresponds to the bays of the main facade. The lean-to on the rear may be of nineteenth century origin but has modern windows. Modern openings have also been added to both gable walls.

The house is constructed of soft mud brick laid in common bond on a fieldstone foundation. The gabled roof is slightly bellcast with exposed rafters beneath plain projecting eaves on all sides; the walls of the north and south elevations are topped with dentil corbelling. The roofline is punctuated by an original chimney built into the east wall just below the ridge on the south rake; on the center of the north elevation, a brick stack added adjacent to the wall punches through the eave. The original wood shingle roof has recently been covered with asphalt shingles.

The simplicity of the house is relieved only by the pattern of the fenestration. Openings are tall and narrow with thin stone lintels and sills. The present sash are one-over-one double hung units which replaced the original two-over-four light windows about 1950. The main entrance is a single glazed leaf and may be original as is the brick stoop which is now encased almost completely in concrete.

Both levels of the interior of the house consist of one room on either side of a central stairhall. The original open stair with its panelled base is intact, though the second floor hall now houses a bathroom on the landing. Original features also include the hand-hewn baseboards throughout the house and the use of a three-inch hardwood band around the edge of the soft flooring on the second floor. In the east room of the first floor, the mantle of the fireplace has been replaced by brick veneer.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
—PREHISTORIC	—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	—COMMUNITY PLANNING	—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	—RELIGION
—1400-1499	—ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	—CONSERVATION	—LAW	—SCIENCE
—1500-1599	—AGRICULTURE	—ECONOMICS	—LITERATURE	—SCULPTURE
—1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	—EDUCATION	—MILITARY	—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
—1700-1799	—ART	—ENGINEERING	—MUSIC	—THEATER
X1800-1899	—COMMERCE	XEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	—TRANSPORTATION
—1900-	—COMMUNICATIONS	XINDUSTRY	—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	—OTHER (SPECIFY)
		—INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1850 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Melvin A. Halsted

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Halsted House is an important link with the establishment of Lowell, Indiana. The residence was built by Melvin A. Halsted in 1850.

Born in 1821, Halsted came from a well-to-do family in New York. In 1837 he moved to Dayton, Ohio, married, and moved to a farm in Lake County, Indiana in 1845. In 1848 the Halsteds settled on land which later became the Town of Lowell.

In 1848, Halsted in partnership with O. E. Haskins purchased a site for a saw mill which they opened in 1849. Halsted and his workmen lived in cabins around the mill. At this time he found a deposit of lake and boulder clay which was excellent for brick making. He fired 400,000 bricks which he used in constructing his house in 1850. The discovery of clay deposits led to the development of the brick industry in Lake and Porter Counties. Halsted's activity inspired similar finds and brick making in a number of other towns in the region.

Soon after completing his brick house, Halsted left to join in the California Gold Rush. His efforts were productive, and he made a number of trips to California. With his new found capital, he erected a flour mill in 1852. The next year he platted the Town of Lowell. Giving away lots to attract mill workers and mechanics, he named the settlement after Lowell, Massachusetts, which had become famous as an ideal mill community. Halsted may have hoped that the mills of Lowell, Indiana, would be as successful as those of Lowell, Massachusetts.

Halsted worked to develop his town into a major Lake County community. The son of a Baptist minister, he funded the construction of the Lowell Baptist Church in 1856. He also built a school in 1862. After securing a daily mail coach run to Lowell, he worked to bring the railroad and succeeded in 1880 when the Monon Line ran through the town. For a short while Lowell was the largest settlement in Lake County.

Throughout the nineteenth century, Halsted sold, reacquired, and sold again his flouring and woolen mills. In 1905 he left his house and went to Kansas where a son lived. He died in 1915 at age 93. After Halsted's ownership, the house passed through a number of hands. The community is considering acquiring the structure for a number of possible adaptive uses.

One of the oldest structures in Lake County, the Halsted House may be the oldest brick house in the county. The house's federal style makes it unusual in a county whose architectural heritage dates largely from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. However, the Halsted House is most significant for its historical associations with the founder of Lowell, Indiana.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Lowell, Indiana

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 464650 4571200

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jane Darling Alexis, Member Board of Governors, Three-Creeks Historical Assoc., Inc.

ORGANIZATION

Three-Creeks Historical Association, Inc.

DATE

6-1-77

STREET & NUMBER

500 Gatewood Drive

TELEPHONE

(219) 696-8719

CITY OR TOWN

Lowell

STATE

Indiana 46356

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

I, the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), 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

Josephine Cloud 8/22-78

TITLE Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Deed records.

Ball, Rev. Timothy H., Lake County Indiana from 1834 to 1872. Chicago: J. W. Goodspeed, 1872

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Brannon, Beulah Plummer, "Melvin A. Halsted," Our American Heritage, The Lowell Centennial Book, 1852-1952.

Brownell, Lillian Hughes, "Lowell (The Southern Part of Lake County)", History of Lake County, Vol. XI. Old Settlers and Historical Association of Lake County, 1934

Dwyer, Mrs. John N., "Early History of Lowell and Vicinity", Historical Records of the Lake County Old Settler and Historical Association of Lake County, Indiana, 1924

Dwyer, Schuyler C., "Address upon Dedication of Marker in Memory of Jabex Clark and Melvin Halstead at Lowell, Ind. August 22, 1925". History of Lake County, Vol. 10, Lake County Historical Association. Gary: Calumet Press, 1929

Goodspeed, Weston A., History of Counties of Porter and Lake Indiana. Chicago: F. A. Battey and Co., 1882

Ragon, Hurley Lee "Southern Lake County", History of Lake County, Vol. XI. Old Settlers and Historical Association of Lake County, 1934