

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic "WOODBANK"
and/or common Rasmussen Cottage

2. Location

street & number 2738 East Shore Lane, Lake Maxinkuckee N/A not for publication
city, town Culver vicinity of ~~congressional district~~
state Indiana code 018 county Marshall code 099

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"/> 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name James Wood Rasmussen
street & number 1950 Northwood Drive
city, town Indianapolis N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46240

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Recorder
street & number Marshall County Courthouse
city, town Plymouth state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date federal state county local
depository for survey records N/A
city, town state

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

Woodbank is a 2½ story, late Victorian summer cottage constructed in 1894. Situated on a wooded hillside, the cottage overlooks the eastern shore of Lake Maxinkuckee.

The plan features three separate gabled sections. The two-story rear section, which appears to be an early addition, is offset from the center line of the front two-story west block, which overlooks the lake. These gable sections create an irregular roof massing which is plainly visible from either the east or west elevation of the house. Adding still further complexity to the roof massing is a small, one-story wing with a gabled roof. It fills the space at the intersection of the main and rear blocks at the northeast corner. There are also two porches with shed roofs. While such irregular roof massing is typical of elaborate urban dwellings of the Victorian period, Woodbank lacks the ornamentation of city dwellings of the period, since it was used only as a summer cottage.

The most prominent and distinctive feature of the house is a two-story, polygonal bay on the south elevation of the rear block. On the west elevation of this bay, the first story projects slightly from the remainder of the bay, creating an alcove in the interior. This appears to have been an early change to the original structure.

On the main, west elevation of the house, a one-story screened porch runs across the entire width of the elevation. This porch, which overlooks the lake, has a sloping shed roof of asphalt shingles, supported by turned wood posts. Single screen doors provide entry on its north and south ends. Across the front, west wall of the house itself, there are several square windows on the first story. The main entrance is placed at the center of the elevation.

On the east, rear elevation, there is a small stoop porch, also with a shed roof, and supported by turned posts. A grape arbor, with wood posts, supporting braces, and beams, runs from the rear entrance to the former privy.

Most of the windows on the house are one-or two-over-one, double-hung with simple architrave trim. These windows are irregularly placed. Few windows appear at the second story level of the east and west elevations, in order to avoid direct sunlight into the bedrooms on this level. Most window openings appear on the long, north and south elevations. The continuous band of square windows with sliding panels that open onto the front porch continues on both the north and south elevations. On the east, rear elevation, there is a square, eight-paned casement window in the one-story wing. On the second story of the rear, east block, one double-hung window has a pair of shutters to shade that bedroom from the morning sun.

At the eaveline, rafter ends are exposed. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. There is one central brick chimney.

The interior of the house has plank floors and plasterboard ceilings. The framing and sheathing are exposed in the office and master bedroom in the polygonal bay, and in the south bedrooms on the second floor. The rest of the rooms, particularly the downstairs rooms, have been finished with wood paneling or plaster. Doors are wood with beveled panels, box locks, and porcelain knobs.

There are three outbuildings on the property: a privy, a two-story laundry-workshop, and a small bathhouse, all constructed of wood with shingled, gabled roofs. The laundry-workshop has flush-board siding and a gable roof. It also has a shed roof porch and several double-hung windows. The bathhouse has been moved from the shoreline and is now used as a children's playhouse.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Built in 1894 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Woodbank is an intact example of late Victorian design in lakefront summer cottages. Unlike urban dwellings of the period, the house displays little exterior or interior ornamentation. Its informal design and wooded setting on the east shore of Lake Maxinkuckee make it a typical Victorian summer cottage, which provided escape from the sweltering heat and unhealthy air of the nineteenth-century city.

First settled by white men in 1836, the area surrounding Lake Maxinkuckee remained oriented toward agriculture for nearly 40 years before it became a resort and recreation area. The first indication that the lake would become a vacation spot did not occur until 1873, when several Plymouth, Indiana, residents established a private clubhouse/hotel on the east shore of the lake. Other clubhouses soon appeared.

At this time, steamboats were the only means of travel to the lake, so that only the well-to-do could afford annual excursions. However, in 1883, the Vandalia Railroad constructed a spur to Lake Maxinkuckee, thus providing a less expensive means of travel for those who could not afford steamboat fares. A number of public hotels were built on the shores of the lake to accommodate increasing numbers of vacationers. Wealthier families built their own private cottages along the lake.

In 1894, William Jacob Wood built Woodbank as a summer home for his family. An investigator for the Fidelity Phoenix Fire Insurance Company in Indianapolis, Wood's travels took him to the Lake Maxinkuckee region for several summers in a row. He decided to purchase some property from a local farmer named Edwards and construct a summer cottage for his family.

Still used by the descendents of Wood, the house has remained in the same family for three generations. The only changes to the cottage have been the installation of electrical wiring and indoor plumbing. Most of the furnishings and such accessories as quilts, china, and utensils are original, preserving the 19th-century flavor of the house. Because most of the cottages have been "winterized," resided, and have had additions made, Woodbank is the only one from this era that retains its original appearance and furnishings.

9. Major Bibliographical References

McDonald, Daniel. History of Lake Maxinkuckee. (Indianapolis: Maxinkuckee Lake Association and Levey Bros., 1905); reprinted Plymouth, Indiana, 1976.
 Rasmussen, Catherine G. "Family Cottage Guards Cultural Victorian Heritage," paper prepared for Indianapolis Junior League, 1976.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property One and one-half acres (Approx. 300' x 200')

Quadrangle name Culver

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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 Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see continuation sheet

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Catherine G. Rasmussen (Mrs. James W.)

organization

date 1978

street & number 1950 Northwood Drive

telephone 317/251-3763 (home)
924-6321 (office)

city or town Indianapolis

state Indiana 46240

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 10-1-82

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

EXP. 12/31/84

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

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

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Continuation sheet Woodbank

Item number 10, Verbal Bndry. Page

Commencing at the Southwest corner of Lot Three (3), in Section Twenty-seven (27), Township Thirty-two (32) North, Range One (1) East; thence running East Three Hundred (300) feet; thence North One Hundred Sixty (160) feet; thence West One Hundred (100) feet; thence South Thirty-five (35) feet; thence West to the meander line of Lake Maxinkuckee; thence Southerly along the meander line of said Lake to the place of beginning;

EXCEPT, A parcel of land five (5) feet wide North to South and One hundred (100) feet East to West, beginning at a point located as follows: Commencing at the Southwest corner of Lot No. 3, of Section No. 27, Township 32 North, Range 1 East, and at the Meander Line of Lake Maximkuckee, thence due East 300 feet, and due North 160 feet; from this beginning point South 5 feet; thence West 100 feet; thence North 5 feet; and East 100 feet to the point of beginning.

ALSO, Commencing on the South line of Lot #3 in Section 27 Township 32 North Range 1 East at an Iron pipe set in a concrete drive said point being on the South line of a Fifteen (15') foot driveway easement and approximately Two Hundred Eighty (280') Feet East of the shore of Lake Maximkuckee; thence West on said South lot line Sixty-eight and Seven-tenths (68.7') feet to the true place of beginning thence South 63°49' West 113.3 thence West parallel with said South lot line One Hundred five (105') feet to the water's edge of Lake Maxinkuckee thence North 5°17' West on said shoreline Fifty and Two tenths (50.2') feet to the South line of said Lot #3 thence East on said Lot line 211.3 to place of beginning also an easement for Ingress and egress described as follows: Beginning on the south line of Lot #3 in Section 27, Township 32 North, Range 1 East at an iron pipe set in a concrete drive, said point being on the South line of a Fifteen (15') foot driveway easement and approximately Two Hundred Eighty (280') Feet East of the shore of Lake Maximkuckee; thence West on the South line of said lot #3, One Hundred (100') Feet thence North Fifteen (15') Feet thence East One Hundred (100') feet thence South Fifteen (15') feet to place of beginning.



Woodbank
Vic. of Culver, Indiana
UTM Reference: 16/550875/4559840

(RUTLAND)
3766 III NE

LAKE MAXINKUCKEE
SPILLWAY ELEV 733

U N I O N

Culver
(BM 654)

PENNSYLVANIA