

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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received

date entered

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Stone's Trace

and/or common

2. Location

street & number U.S. 33 and State Road 5
Three Miles South of Ligonier N/A not for publication

city, town Ligonier XX vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Noble code 113

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Stone's Trace Historical Society

street & number R. R. 3

city, town Ligonier XX vicinity of state Indiana 46767

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Noble County Courthouse

city, town Albion state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate ☐ 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 Stone's Tavern c. 1860

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Stone's Trace is a triangular wooded site in the fork of the intersection of the old Goshen Road (now U.S. 33) and Indiana 5, which was originally known as the White Pigeon Road; the intersection is approximately three miles South of the Town of Ligonier (Photos 1, 2, and site plan). The site is gently rolling and is covered with mature trees which screen the clearing in the center of the site from the highways. The south side of the site adjoins a dense woodlot on the adjacent farm. The property includes four structures which date from the period of historical development, and six modern structures which have been erected by the Stone's Trace Historical Society to house the activities of the annual Pioneer Crafts Festival and related activities. The structures included on the site are as follows:

Stone's Tavern: This 1839 Federal style structure is the oldest and most historically significant element of the site. A two story, gabled, rectangular mass five bays long and two bays wide, the tavern's heavy timber frame is sheathed in red clapboard and roofed with wood shingles. Prior to its restoration in 1964-1966, the tavern had been converted into an outbuilding.

In 1964 the structure was threatened by the Highway Department and a group formed to restore the old tavern. The structure had been moved a few hundred feet from its original site possibly about 1860, when the Kimmels purchased the property. According to longtime residents and descendants of the Kimmels, the four boulders that served as the new foundation came from Mrs. Kimmel's sister's farm. The building was converted for use as a barn, and was covered with vertical siding.

The exact location of the original cellar has not been discovered. Upon removal of the vertical barn siding, evidence of the original horizontal clapboards was discovered, as well as evidence of a one-story porch on the main facade. The removal of the shed roof exposed the original main facade window frames still in place, and the original cornice and frieze were intact. Evidence of a kitchen ell at the rear remained; however, due to lack of funds this has not been rebuilt.

The interior of the building was surprisingly intact. The stairway had not been removed and beneath the granary floor were the original ash floor boards. Fortunately, most of the interior plaster had survived, including the inscription, "Richard Stone, April, 1840," still on the plaster at the head of the stairs (see Photos 3, 4). Much of the original woodwork was discovered, including the chair rail molding still in place. The fireplace hearth framing was intact, and because stones were found in the upstairs openings where chimneys had been, fireplaces were rebuilt in stone. Some of the woodwork had traces of the original paint which was reproduced for use in the interior.

As restored, the exterior has clapboard siding matching the original dimensions, a wide frieze and corner boards, and plain wide casings around nine-over-six, double-hung sash windows (Photos 5, 6). A one-story porch of conjectural design was built on the front (southeast) elevation, based upon evidence of the original. The main entrance in the center bay under the porch, also conjectural, has a door glazed with six lights over two vertical panels and sidelight panels of three lights over solid panels. An identical door without sidelights is located in the center of the rear (northwest) elevation, at the opposite end of a central hall; a modern shed canopy shelters this rear entrance. The tavern has a pattern of regularly spaced fenestration on all sides except the east end of the rear wall, which is blank.

The interior of the tavern is for the most part original construction. Both levels have a center hall plan. The staircase has its original plain square newels and balusters and a simple round handrail; the newels are slightly enriched with cap moldings (Photo 7). Each of the large rooms which flank the first floor hall is dominated by a large limestone rubble hearth centered on the end wall; these fireplaces were built in 1965 where only the framed openings in the floors remained of the original hearths (Photos 8, 9). On the second floor, the area east of the hall is unevenly divided by a lateral partition into a chamber on the southeast corner (Photo 10) and two smaller chambers behind, one of which is entered from the chamber, and the other is entered from the hall. A single chamber occupies the west half of the second floor (Photo 11). Throughout the interior of the tavern plain wide casings and baseboards are used; the casings are beaded on their inner edges and the baseboards have beaded tops. Most of the rooms also have a beaded chair-rail which is continuous with the window sills. All interior doors have two vertical panels.

Cyrus Kimmell House: The second most significant historic structure on the site is this two story, brick, Italianate house, which was probably built by the fourth owner of the site about 1875. The house is a two story, ell-shaped, gabled mass connected by a one story, hip roofed, frame addition on its northwest corner to a one story gabled brick outbuilding, which was probably a washhouse (Photos 12, 13, 14). The facade (northeast elevation) of the Kimmell House has a slightly projecting, three bay end gable on the south, and a service wing which has four bays on its first floor and three bays on its second register. The smooth walls of the house are punctuated by a regular pattern of fenestration which has four-over-four, double-hung sash set within masonry openings topped by segmental arches of header coursing; that the windows also had exterior shutters is shown by one remaining set of shutters and the remains of hinge hardware on all of the frames. The most elaborate exterior feature of the house is the molded coffered paneling of the soffit, which runs above a plain wide frieze. That the house once had a porch or porches on the facade is suggested by the second floor doors above the front parlor door in the center bay of the end gable, and the door centered above the dining room and kitchen doors on the center of the service wing; no paint shadows or other physical evidence is apparent, however, to indicate the porch detailing. Three small canopies of modern construction presently cover the doors on the facade. On the rear elevation, a small porch with turned posts is set in the angle between the house and the frame kitchen wing.

The first floor of the Kimmell House has a front parlor in front of a downstairs bed chamber in the south (end gable) wing. An enclosed stairway in the south end of the service wing separates these spaces from what was originally a dining room with a kitchen beyond; the latter two rooms were later interconnected by a Craftsman style screen of battered piers standing on glass-doored cases when the rooms became, respectively, sitting and dining rooms (Photo 15), and a new kitchen had been created in the frame wing which contains the present kitchen. The second floor of the house has a series of bed chambers grouped around a stair-hall, where the stairway lands with a turned newel and balusters around the stairwell (Photo 16). The interior of the original brick house is finished throughout with heavy Italianate bolection molding and high baseboards. The windows of the parlor have paneled aprons (Photo 17); the rest of the windows have a similar treatment consisting of a plaster reveal under the sills (see Photo 14). All interior doors are grained poplar with four vertical panels, and are topped by operable transoms glazed with etched glass. The exterior doors are of a similar design, but they have round-topped upper panels (Photo 18). All doors have surface-mounted iron

rim locks with white porcelain knobs. In the present kitchen, beaded casing with incised head blocks and quirked plinth blocks are used with high baseboards capped by a quirked molding; the two exterior kitchen doors are semi-glazed with one horizontal panel over two vertical panels in their lower halves (Photo 19).

Farm Buildings: On the southeast side of the farmyard clearing, opposite Stone's Tavern and behind (southwest) the Kimmell House are two structures of the late 19th century farmstead. Both are nearly engulfed by the edge of the woodlot to the south. The smaller of the two, nearest the Kimmell House, is a one story rectangular frame granary, which is sided with vertical boards and roofed with the same kind of stamped metal panels seen on the Kimmell House. The granary has sliding doors on its gable-ends and a corn crib along the length of the south side of its interior (Photo 20).

Southwest of the granary is the barn, a two story, gabled, rectangular mass which has a one story shed-roofed wing on its southwest gable-end and a round concrete silo of modern construction on its rear (south) corner (Photo 21). The barn is sided with vertical boards and has a corrugated metal roof. Two modern, one story privies stand east of the barn.

Modern Structures: Several structures have been erected to house the activities of the Stone's Trace Historical Society and the Stone's Trace Regulators, a rifle club.

Standing on the edge of a depression which serves as a natural theater is the Graydon Blue Pavilion, which was dedicated in 1977 to the memory of the founder of the Stone's Trace Historical Society. This one story, gabled, rectangular pavilion is built of rough sawn timber and serves as a stage for musicians during the annual Pioneer Crafts Festival (Photo 22).

Directly northeast of the Blue Pavilion is a one story, rectangular pole barn sheathed in red vertical steel siding (Photo 23). This structure was built in 1979 to house additions to the Society's artifact collection, as well as storage of equipment and furniture used during the Pioneer Crafts Festival (Photo 24).

Two structures are used by the Stone's Trace Regulators, a group of muzzle-loading rifle enthusiasts. Directly southwest of the barn the Regulators have a rifle range whose firing line is sheltered by a long, rectangular, timber frame, topped by a gabled metal roof (see Photo 2). North of the shooting range, a small log building with an overhanging gabled roof is used by the Regulators for storage (Photo 25). This building was moved here in 1982 from "Historic Clarksville," a now-defunct tourist attraction in North Webster, Indiana.

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 checked="" 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 1839, 1875, 1966 **Builder Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Stone's Trace is primarily of local historical significance for its associations with early patterns of travel and settlement in the area. The site is part of what was known as Perry's Prairie, a natural clearing that was the first settlement (1833) in what is now Noble County. The surrounding area was originally dense forest otherwise broken only by lakes and swamps. Settlement also occurred here because the site lay at the convergence of two trails originally established by the Miami Indians. The Goshen Road became an artery of local settlement after its use by General Anthony Wayne in a 1790 expedition against the Miami villages of the Elkhart prairie to the north; and Stone's Trace was a natural stopover point, since it is roughly midway between Fort Wayne and Elkhart.

Richard Stone formally entered his claim for the west half of the southwest quarter of Section three (which includes Stone's Trace) on October 16, 1835; on November 9, 1835, he also entered claim to the east half of the same quarter section. In 1836 Noble County was formally organized and established its first seat at Sparta, in Section 24 of the same Sparta Township in which Stone's Trace is located; in that same year, the Goshen Road was designated a state route as far north as Ligonier. The early prominence of Stone's Trace is illustrated by its use in the fall of 1838 for the ten-day trial of nine horse thieves; the trial judge was Nelson Prentiss, a Justice of the Peace from Piqua, Ohio, and the trial lawyers were Charles Ewing and Robert Breckenridge, of Fort Wayne. Like many of the farmers along Goshen Road, Stone let rooms to travelers; the relative size and sophistication of the house he built in 1839 attests to his success as both a farmer and innkeeper. During this same period, Stone's original log cabin was being used as a school in the New Hope district; later, a one-room brick school was built across the road to the northwest, where it stood until the 1970's. Stone also served as local postmaster from 1840 to 1846, when a post office was established at Ligonier.

The Stone era ended in 1860, when Stone sold the property to Isaac Glass. Stone then moved to Grundy County, Illinois. Glass sold the property to James Awkerman about 1863, and in about 1873 Cyrus Kimmell bought the quarter section. By 1875 the era of settlement was over, and Stone's Trace became a typical farmstead.

The Kimmell family were typical of this period of the area's development. Cyrus Kimmell was born August 13, 1826, and came to York Township of Noble County in 1851. After farming for 16 years Kimmell was in the hardware business with Caleb McMeans at Brimfield for one year, then returned to farming in Orange Township for four years before buying the former Stone property about 1873. After 1893 Kimmell shared the farm with his son, Joseph, who was born April 28, 1872. Joseph Kimmell was a member of the Noble County Horticultural Society, and was its president after 1897; he was also secretary of the Noble County Farmer's Institute. The property remained in the Kimmell family until 1947.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Stone's Trace

Continuation Sheet

Item 8

Page 3

The structures at Stone's Trace are of local architectural significance as examples of two periods of historical development, and a modern period of historical interpretation. Stone's Tavern is an example of the simple Federal style which was the most architecturally sophisticated expression of the era of early settlement. The Kimmell family's home and farm buildings are typical of the period of consolidation and agricultural development which succeeded the pioneer era. Although detailed in the Italianate style, the Kimmell House uses a plan and form seen in the earlier Federal and Greek Revival style houses of central New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, and also common in Northern Indiana, most of whose early settlers came west from those states.

Stone's Trace is also significant as one of the earliest restoration projects in Northeastern Indiana. The project was initiated by local pharmacist, Graydon Blue, who had become fascinated by the history of the dilapidated barn that Stone's Tavern had become. Blue and his wife, Helen, spent seven years tracing the history of the property. When three acres of the present site were donated to the 184 members of the newly-formed Stone's Trace Historical Society in April, 1964, a restoration began which was completed almost entirely through volunteer efforts and dedicated June 26, 1966. Although Graydon Blue died only seven weeks later, on August 11, 1966, the Society continued the project and, in 1974, the first Pioneer Crafts Festival was held. This annual event has been held every year since, and now attracts as many as 20,000 visitors. In 1983 the Society acquired the remainder of the site, which it plans to restore to illustrate the mid-19th century history of Noble County.

In each of its three lives, as pioneer crossroads, prosperous farm, and historical shrine, Stone's Trace has been the focus of significant events in the growth of Noble County.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approximately 5 acres

Quadrangle name Ligonier, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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6	1	8	1	4	0
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4	5	8	6	8	4	0
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Zone

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Zone

Easting

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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 Craig Leonard, Historic Preservation Consultant for
Region III-A Development District

organization Stone's Trace Historical Society date November, 1983

street & number R. R. 2 telephone

city or town Ligonier state Indiana 46767

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 4-18-84

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

BOOKS

Samuel Alvord, Alvord's History of Noble County, Indiana. Logansport, Indiana: B. F. Bowen and Company, 1902.

Norman J. Carter, Noble County and the Indiana Sesquicentennial. Albion, Indiana: Noble County Committee for the Indiana Sesquicentennial, 1966.

O. Morrow, Plat Book and Statistical Record of Noble County, Indiana. Madison, Wisconsin: Western Publishing Company, 1893.

_____, Counties of LaGrange and Noble, Indiana. Chicago, Illinois: F. A. Battey and Company, 1882.

_____, History of Kendallville and Noble County, Indiana, 1863-1963. Bound edition of a series of articles which appeared in the Kendallville Daily News-Sun. Kendallville, Indiana: News-Sun Publishing Company, 1963. Includes "Misty Concrete Paths Lead to Historic Gems," text of a talk by Graydon Blue, Kendallville Daily News-Sun, May 7, 1963.

_____, History of Northeast Indiana. Chicago, Illinois: Lewis Publishing Company, 1920.

_____, Illustrated Historical Atlas of Noble County, Indiana. Chicago, Illinois: Andreas and Baskin, 1874.

NEWSPAPERS

Robert Calvert, "Stone's Tavern Retains Flavor of Bygone Era," Elkhart Truth, Elkhart, Indiana, November 22, 1966.

Gladys Caruso, "Rescued Stone's Tavern Gives the Past a Future," Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette, Fort Wayne, Indiana, January 16, 1972.

Kenneth Keller, "Ligonier Beats Razers to a Prize of History," Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette, Fort Wayne, Indiana, October 18, 1964.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A part of the Southwest quarter of the Southeast quarter of Section 3, Township 34 North, Range 8 East in Sparta Township, Noble County, Indiana, as follows: beginning at the point of intersection of the East line of Indiana 5 and the West line of U.S. 33 and proceeding in a Southeasterly direction along the West right-of-way line of U.S. 33 approximately 375 feet, then turning at an angle of 113° to said line and proceeding in a Southwesterly direction approximately 338 feet, then turning at an angle of 150° to proceed in a Southwesterly direction approximately 300 feet to intersect with the East right-of-way line of Indiana 5, then proceeding North and East along said line approximately 880 feet to return to the point of beginning.

Note: This verbal boundary description is intended to include only the area of the property on which the structures described in the nomination are included. The full legal boundary of the property owned by the Stone's Trace Historical Society includes an attenuated area North of the present highway intersection, which has been redesigned at some time, as well as a part of the wooded area to the South of the buildings. Please refer to the sheet accompanying the site plan for comparison of this larger tract with the parcel included in the verbal boundary description.

Contributing buildings in this nomination include Stone's Tavern, the Kimmell House, the granary and the barn.

Stone's Trace
vic. of Ligonier, Indiana
UTM Reference: 16/618140/4586840

