

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Luckey Hospital

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number Intersection of US Hwy 33 & State Road 109

	not for publication
	vicinity

city or town Wolf Lake

state Indiana code IN county Noble code 113 zip code 46796

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
 I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:  
 national     statewide     local

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology  
 State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register                       determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register                       removed from the National Register

other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

Luckey Hospital  
 Name of Property

Noble County, IN  
 County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
 (Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	district
0	0	site
3	0	structure
0	0	object
4	0	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

HEALTH CARE: hospital  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Modern Movement  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE  
 walls: BRICK  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 roof: SYNTHETICS: Rubber  
 other: STONE: Limestone  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

Luckey Hospital  
Name of Property

Noble County, IN  
County and State

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

### Summary Paragraph

The Luckey Hospital was constructed in 1929 at the corner of two locally important routes on the south edge of the town of Wolf Lake, Indiana. The small community hospital was organized by the Luckey family and built behind their Wolf Lake home. The residence is no longer extant, but the hospital building and some exterior landscape features remain at this corner lot in a residential area of Wolf Lake. Very limited alterations have been made to the building since its discontinued use as a medical building in 1961. The building is three stories tall, includes a basement, and its walls are constructed out of brick. The building faces southeast to State Road 109. The building is not constructed in any particular architectural style but is generically Modern in its appearance. There are no significant exterior details and only a few interior details that could be classified into a particular style. The building was constructed by a local contractor named Hiatt Brothers Construction; Dr. Harold Luckey, the son of Dr. James, designed the building.

### Narrative Description

#### *Description of Site*

The lot on which the Luckey Hospital is constructed is an original lot to the plat of Wolf Lake. The hospital building was constructed on the back half of the lot behind the Dr. James Luckey residence which fronted US 33. The Luckey House was a large Queen Anne style home constructed about 1900. A tunnel once connected the basement of the hospital with the basement of the home; a portion of the tunnel leading from the hospital basement is extant. The house was razed in about 1960 and the area was turned into a front lawn for the hospital. Parking once lined the front of the building along State Road 109, but a road widening project eliminated the parking and placed a concrete sidewalk along the front façade of the building in 2010. A small gravel parking area is located on the southwest side of the building and lawn is located on the northwest side.

A garage belonging to the residence was once located in the northwest corner of the lot. It was razed in 2001. A concrete and stone wall is located along portions of the west and north boundary lines of the property. The wall on the west side is composed of pieces of concrete mortared together. The north wall is composed of pieces of concrete and field stone. A stone fireplace with a tall stone chimney is located near the east end of the wall (photo 0004). A concrete slab is located in front of the wall, west of the fireplace. Two large White Pine trees and three spruce trees are located east of the fireplace. Lawn is located between the north boundary of the property and the building. The walls, fireplace, and trees date to the period near the construction of the hospital. This area on the north side of the building was used by patients for outdoor respite. Other later landscaping has been installed around the building. Ivy grows on a portion of the front wall of the hospital; it appears in early photographs of the hospital building.

The tunnel, two walls and the fireplace are considered contributing structures.

#### *Luckey Hospital Building, Description of Exterior (photos 0001-0003)*

The building is constructed in tall three story and two story sections, with a basement under most of the building. The two story section is the east half of the building and the three story section is the west half of the building. A third story room is built over a small portion of the two story section and is connected to the third floor of the three story section. The building has a concrete foundation with approximately twelve inches of the foundation wall visible above the ground. The building's walls are composed of tan colored brick. The building has primarily 1/1 wood windows with limestone sills and steel lintels. Basement windows are steel frames with sashes divided into three panes of glass. These are located in window wells around the base of the building. The building has tall brick parapet walls on all sides of the building. The parapet walls have three courses of brick that corbel out from the main wall to form the top of the wall. Flashing wraps the top of the wall. The roof is flat and is covered in sheets of rubber; roof drains are located on the north wall of the building. The roof drains extend below the ground to cisterns where water was collected for doing laundry. A room constructed on the roof of the three story section has the elevator hoist and roof access door and staircase from the interior of the building located in it. The walls of the elevator hoist room and the third story room over the two story section are covered with faux brick asphalt shingles. Their roofs are very low sloped gable roofs with wood fascia and soffits and sheets of rubber covering the roofs.

Luckey Hospital  
Name of Property

Noble County, IN  
County and State

The building's front façade (facing State Road 109/Market Street) has the two story section on its east side and three story section on its west side. Each of the sections comprises approximately half of the façade. The two story section (photo 0001) has an entry door at its east end. The door is a six-panel steel door with a stone threshold and building block that functions as a lintel over the doorway. The face of the building block once had "Clinic" carved into it but it has been covered with cement. Simple brass wall sconces are located to each side of the door and are original to the building. A pair of 1/1 windows are grouped together west of the entry door in the first story wall. A 1/1 window is located at the west end of the two story section in the first story wall. The second story wall of the two story section has a pair of 1/1 windows grouped together slightly east of center over the entry door on the first story. A row of three 1/1 windows are centered in the second story wall and another pair of 1/1 windows are grouped together at the west end of the two story section's second story wall.

The front façade of the three story section (photo 0002) has an entry east of center on its façade. The entry is composed of a wood door and side lites divided into multiple panes of glass by wood mullions. Limestone blocks form a surround for the entry. A limestone building block that functions as a lintel is over the entry. The block once had "Luckey + Hospital" carved into it but it has been covered with cement. A row of brick rowlocks is above the building block. Simple brass wall sconces are located to each side of the entry and are original to the building. The first story wall has a 1/1 window located east of the entry and two 1/1 windows are located west of the entry. Basement windows are located under each of these. Four 1/1 windows are spaced equally across the second story wall and align with the windows on the first story, except over the entry. This window is slightly off-center with the entry. The westernmost window is a 1/1 vinyl replacement window. The third story wall has four 1/1 windows. The easternmost window is aligned with the window below it on the second story. The next window to the west is centered with the entry on the first story. The following window to the west is to the east side of the window below it on the second story. The fourth window is a small 1/1 window that is centered between the westernmost two windows on the second story.

Both entries on the front façade have concrete porches. The porches have brick piers at their outside corners. The piers are approximately 30" tall and are composed of brick that matches the building and limestone cap stones. The hospital's entry porch originally had low walls on each side of the porch. The piers date to about 1945.

The east façade (seen on the right side of photo 0001) originally faced the rear of the Dr. James Luckey residence, but now faces US 33 which is the main street of Wolf Lake. This façade is two stories tall. The first story wall has three 1/1 windows. The northernmost window is north of center on the façade and the middle window is south of center on the façade. The second story has a pair of 1/1 windows grouped together and centered in the second story wall. The west façade (seen on the left side of photo 0002 and the right side of photo 0003) faces a small gravel parking area. This façade is three stories tall. The first story wall has a pair of wood entry doors centered in its wall. The doors have full windows divided into multiple panes of glass with wood mullions. The doors have a tall stone threshold block and stone step. Two basement windows are located on each side of the doors. A small 1/1 window is located in the first story wall south of the doors. The second story wall has a pair of 1/1 vinyl replacement windows grouped together and centered in the wall. A small 1/1 vinyl replacement window is located north of the pair of windows. The third story wall has a small opening centered in it. The opening has a window air conditioner in it and plywood framed around it. A 1/1 window is located south of the center opening. Three tall 1/1 vinyl replacement windows are grouped together and are centered in the north half of the third story wall.

The north façade (photo 0003) has the two story section of the building in its east half and the west half has the three story section of the building. The two story section's wall is approximately five feet south of the three story section. This five foot wide wall of the three story section faces east and has a chimney and metal rungs for a fire escape. The top three courses of brick on the chimney taper outward and match the building's parapet. Concrete is formed with a taper and creates the chimney cap. The three story section has the stairwell in the center of the wall on the inside of the building. This creates a midlevel section whose windows do not align with the main levels of the building. The wall has a wood entry door in the east half of its wall at a midlevel. The bottom of the door is approximately three feet below the level of the ground; it is accessed by a concrete ramp to the west and steps to the east. Handrails composed of steel pipe are located on the outside (north) wall of the ramp and steps. The door has three panels in its bottom half and a window and two small panels in its upper half. A 1/1 window is east of the door in the first story. A small 1/1 window is centered in the north wall of three story section; it is at midlevel. Two 1/1 windows are west of the small window in the first story. Basement windows are located under each of these two westernmost windows. The midlevel between the first and second stories has two 1/1 windows. The second story has two 1/1 vinyl replacement windows west of the midlevel windows and one 1/1 window east of the midlevel windows. The midlevel between the second and third stories has two 1/1 windows. A wide window is located high on the third story west of the midlevel windows and a 1/1 window is located east of the midlevel windows. Two 1/1 windows are located in the midlevel wall of the staircase as it continues to the

Luckey Hospital  
Name of Property

Noble County, IN  
County and State

elevator hoist and roof access room. A historic porcelain enameled steel light shade is located on the east corner of the wall at the top of the second story.

The two story section of the north façade has a wood door and screen door in the east half of its first story wall. The door has two panels in its bottom half and a window in its top half. The door has a stone threshold. The door provides access to a concrete patio on the north side of the building. A 1/1 window is centered in the first story wall and another 1/1 window is west of the center window. A steel fire escape ladder and platform are located at the west end of the two story section's north wall. The fire escape landing is located outside of a small wood hatch door in the west end of the second story wall. A wood transom window is above the hatch door. Three pairs of 1/1 windows are spaced equally across the second story wall. Each pair is grouped together in a single opening. A steel tubular shaped fire escape was once located against this wall and provided escape from the hatch doors on the second story. It is in storage and plans are to reinstall it on the building.

The third story room that is located over the center of the two story section has two pairs of wood casement windows grouped together in the center of its north and south walls. The east wall of this room has three pairs of wood casement windows grouped together in its center. Each casement window is divided into six panes of glass by wood mullions. Simple wood casings are located around the windows. This room was the delivery room for expecting mothers. The elevator hoist room has a roof access door composed of wood.

*Luckey Hospital, Description of Interior (photos 0005-0015)*

The hospital has a central corridor running east and west that divides each story into north and south halves. The building has terrazzo floors throughout. The terrazzo is in colors of dark black/green and gray/green and tradition states the terrazzo came from Italy for a project in New York City that was abandoned. The gray/green is located in fields of color framed by the black/green which is also formed into a cove against the walls. The walls throughout the building are plaster with a heavy rubbed finish. A few locations have non-historic wood paneling covering the walls. The ceilings throughout the building are covered with plaster except in the head office where acoustic tiles are installed over the ceiling. Most of the door and window casings are wood that has been painted. The casings are simple flat boards with a thicker square trim piece around the outside perimeter of the flat boards. The building has pine doors in configurations of single panel, two panel, five panel, and French doors. Most of the doors are single panel and have been painted, though a few doors have a varnish finish and have "Private" and "For Doctors Only" in gold lettering on them. The elevator door is steel with multiple windows with safety glass. Most of the original light fixtures and exit signs are extant. The lights are mostly simple brass ceiling collars with white milk glass Art Deco shades.

The building, which now functions as a museum, is furnished with an extensive amount of medical equipment and furniture dating from the mid 1800s through the period the building was in use as a hospital and medical clinic. Many of the items were used at the facility.

The basement has rooms mostly related to the mechanical and service operations of the hospital. A kitchen with a food storage room and dining space for patients and staff is located in the basement level. A developing room for X-rays was also located in the basement. Laundry facilities, the mechanical room and coal storage room are located in the basement. The tunnel that connected the hospital to the Luckey residence is in the northeast corner of the basement. Due to the climate of the tunnel, surgical specimens were kept on shelves on the walls of the tunnel. About half of the tunnel is extant from the northeast corner of the hospital building.

The first story has two lobbies, one for the clinic and one for the hospital. The clinic lobby (photo 0014) is at the east end of the building. It has a coffered ceiling with large wood beams that divides the plaster ceiling. An opening in the south end of the west wall leads to the main doctor's office; a doorway near the center of the west wall leads to the main east/west corridor of the building. The opening into the lobby was created at a later time when the main office functioned as the business office. The main doctor's office was originally Dr. James Luckey's office, but he traded locations with his son, Robert for a smaller office. The main office has had a few changes to the wall and ceiling finishes. The walls are covered in wood paneling and wallpaper. The ceiling has been covered with acoustic tiles in a metal grid dropped below the surface of the plaster ceiling. A brick fireplace is centered in the west wall of the main office (photo 0015). It has slightly tapered walls to the height of a brick mantel above which the chimney is severely tapered. A stone lintel is over the fireplace opening. A large framed photo of Dr. James Luckey is centered on the chimney with brass light sconces on each side of the large photo. The main office walls also have large photos of James Luckey's two physician sons, as well as their medical diplomas from Vienna, Austria.

Luckey Hospital  
Name of Property

Noble County, IN  
County and State

Immediately off the north side of the corridor at its east end is a short hallway leading to a public toilet room, closet, and an exterior door that leads to the concrete patio on the north side of the building. A laundry chute is located in the west wall of the short hallway; it extends from the second story to the basement. The plaster wall at the northwest corner of the junction of the short hallway and main corridor is curved. A room for dispensing drugs is located west of the short hallway; it has a doorway and interior opening to the main corridor (seen on left side of photo 0013). Across from this room on the south side of the main corridor is the pharmacy and lab; the lab operated out of the south half of the room and dividers were placed to separate it from the pharmacy. A doorway across the main corridor separates this area from the rest of the first story.

The remaining main corridor becomes wider in the rest of the building. A curved plaster wall on the south side of the corridor just west of the dividing doorway allows the corridor to become several feet wider. A small doctor's office is located on the south side and the north sides of the main corridor. Dr. Harold Luckey's office was the one located on the south side of the corridor. The emergency exam room (photo 0012) with original wood cabinets is located west of the small office on the north side of the corridor. Near the center of the main corridor, on its south side, is the lobby for the hospital. The opening to the lobby is wide and has a shaped top with curved interior corners and a pointed arch opening (seen in photo 0011). The south wall of the lobby has a wood entry door and side-lites. Opposite the lobby on the north side of the main corridor is the building's staircase and elevator (photo 0011). The staircase wraps around the elevator on its west, north, and east sides. The elevator door and the staircase leading to the second story are aligned with the lobby opening. The elevator's interior door is a brass retractable cage style door. Oral tradition indicates that several babies were born in the elevator.

West of the staircase leading to the basement (on the west side of the elevator) is the X-ray room (photo 0009). The room has a slightly higher ceiling due to equipment needs; this is reflected on the second story by a slight step in the floor over this area. A small closet was added in the southwest corner of the X-ray room at a much later date. The X-ray room is the northwest corner of the building. West of the hospital lobby is an overflow patient room for the hospital. It was also the location for tonsillectomy operations. A small clothes closet is located in the northwest corner of this room. The outside walls of the closet form a curved corner. This closet is typical of all patient rooms on the second story (see photo 0005). West of the overflow patient room is a small exam room and west of the exam room is a public toilet room. The toilet room is located in the southwest corner of the building. The west wall of the main corridor has a pair of narrow exterior doors and a step on the inside of the threshold. These west doors are the location where ambulances and hearses could back up to the building for patient deliveries (photo 0010).

The second story consisted entirely of patient rooms off the main corridor. A total of 18 patient beds in nine rooms were located on the second story. A nurse call light is located above each room's door. A few interior walls were removed to create apartments during the 1980s; however the main corridor, elevator and staircase walls are all in their original configuration. One bathroom was provided for the entire patient population. It is located near the center of the south side of the main corridor. A doorway once led directly from the corridor to the bathroom. The original porcelain enameled steel bathtub is located in its original location in the room. Near the east end of the main corridor is a short hallway off its north side; it leads to the fire escape hatch door. The east end of the main corridor is divided visually from the remaining corridor by a shaped bulkhead across the top of the corridor (photo 0006). It has curved interior corners and a pointed arched top in the same design as the wall above the opening in the hospital lobby. In the northeast corner of the second story is a room with a wall angled toward the corridor and a door facing southwest (photo 0006). The outside corners of the angled wall are curved. This room was the nursery. Baskets were hung off of the walls of the nursery for infants to stay inside.

The third story has a pair of French doors located at the west end of the main corridor (photo 0008). The doors lead to the surgery room which is located across the west end of the building. A window positioned high on the north wall provided natural light to the surgery room. The packing/sterilization room is located off the south side of the surgery room. The wall between the packing room and surgery room has been partially removed and wood paneling covers the walls of the packing room area. The doctors' lounge and a private toilet room for the doctors are located east of the packing room. This space is on the south side of the main corridor, opposite the staircase and elevator. A maternity labor room is located east of the doctors' lounge. Two maternity labor rooms are located east of the staircase which leads to the roof and surgery observation area. A pair of French doors is located at the east end of the main corridor. The doors provide access to the third story room constructed over the two story section of the building. This room has rows of casement windows on its north, south and east walls (photo 0007). The room originally was a sun porch, but later was converted for use as the delivery room. The staircase leading to the roof had a large interior window in the west wall of its mid level to allow observation of the surgery room. This window was removed and plaster now covers the opening. The interior walls of the elevator hoist room located on the roof of the building are covered in wood car siding.

Luckey Hospital  
Name of Property

Noble County, IN  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

HEALTH/MEDICINE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1929-1961  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Hiatt Brothers Construction  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins with the year of construction of the hospital in 1929 and ends in 1961 when the hospital building ceased to function for medical purposes and a new clinic was constructed in the community.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

Not applicable

Luckey Hospital  
Name of Property

Noble County, IN  
County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Luckey Hospital is an excellent example of a historic private hospital in a rural community. The hospital was developed by a family of doctors in the small Noble County, Indiana town of Wolf Lake. Though rural, it was also recognized regionally for its surgical services during the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The level of integrity of the building and its importance to the larger rural community make the building a unique survivor of private health services. The building is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A because of its association with the early development of modern healthcare, and under the area of significance for Health & Medicine.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

*Medical Practice in Wolf Lake*

Wolf Lake has a long history with health and medicine; a number of physicians practiced medicine in the community, even during the town's infancy. Dr. Victor Cole was the first physician to practice in Wolf Lake; he established his office in the community in 1837. The following year five other physicians began their practice in the community: Drs. McDuffey, Elias Jones, Lewis, Grover & Matthews. Jones was a physician and surgeon and also had a business establishment in which he dealt in drugs, medicines, paints, oils, varnishes, groceries, and other merchandise. He practiced in the village of Wolf Lake until his death in 1878. Drs. Grover and Matthews, who were brothers-in-law, established a "sort of medical school at the village and sent a dozen or more graduates out to practice what they learned." Grover and Matthews were described as "combined faith and water" doctors.<sup>1</sup> This likely is a reference to the medicinal qualities believed to exist in the waters of nearby lakes and streams.

Other doctors who established offices in Wolf Lake during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century were Dr. Ezra W. DePew, Henry Shock, Marcellus Robinson, O. Gandy, Reed, Denney, Williams, and Sheldon. Dr. DePew established his office in Wolf Lake in 1865 and practiced medicine in a little office in his yard at his residence until his death in 1911. DePew had two sons who also became physicians, but established offices in other communities.<sup>2</sup> Drs. DePew, Matthews, and Gandy are listed as physicians and surgeons in a roster of businessmen in the 1874 Atlas of Noble County stating "calls promptly attended" after DePew and Matthews' names. The 1893 business directory of Noble County lists E. W. DePew and J. E. Luckey as physicians in Wolf Lake; both are listed again in the 1908 directory. Ezra DePew is listed as head of household with his wife Hattie in the 1908 directory; Luckey is listed as head of household with his wife Dot and their three sons Hugh, Harold, and Robert.

Another interesting historical account concerning an industry related to health in Wolf Lake is the manufacture of coffins during the town's early years. W. W. Noteman opened a cabinet shop in Wolf Lake in 1840. While he manufactured all forms of cabinetry, he also produced a number of coffins. In a period of sixteen years Noteman had constructed and shipped to the surrounding region over 1,400 coffins.<sup>3</sup> His business does not appear in the roster of Wolf Lake businesses in the 1874 Atlas, so it is assumed that the account in the 1882 History of Noble County indicates the business ceased in about 1856.

**HEALTH & MEDICINE**

*The Luckey Family*

Dr. James Edward Luckey, founder of the Luckey Hospital, was born in Noble County on July 18, 1865 to Robert and Abigail Adair Luckey. His father was originally from Pennsylvania, and then later moved to Ohio, then Elkhart, Indiana. Robert was a brick mason and constructed a number of early buildings in Elkhart County. Robert later moved to Noble County and married Abigail Adair. Abigail was the second Euro-American child born in Noble County; her family settled in

<sup>1</sup> 1882 History of Noble County, pg. 251

<sup>2</sup> Shultz, pg. 81

<sup>3</sup> 1882 History of Noble County, pg. 251

Luckey Hospital

Name of Property

Noble County, IN

County and State

Washington Township.<sup>4</sup> Robert and Abigail had seven children; each became prominent members of the area except one daughter who moved to Washington State with her husband, a lumber camp owner.

James Luckey attended local district schools and high school. He later graduated from the American Medical College in Chicago and received a certificate from the Medical College of Indiana in Indianapolis in March of 1892. This was the forerunner of the Indiana University School of Medicine. He satisfied the requirements for study in histology, pathology, and bacteriology. Dr. Luckey returned to Noble County and began to practice medicine in Wolf Lake as early as 1893. In 1901 he purchased property to construct a home at the southwest corner of Main and Market Streets. From the home Luckey operated his medical practice until the size of his family and his practice grew to a point that Luckey constructed a small wood frame building behind the residence to accommodate his practice. Until this time, Luckey allowed patients to remain in his home if they were too ill to return to their homes. The first building was expanded to a five bed hospital in 1928. The building was razed to make room for the new building in 1929.<sup>5</sup> The foundation of the building is under the lobby of the clinic area of the Luckey Hospital.

Dr. Luckey married Doiseny Denfer in September, 1892 in Noble County. They had three children: Hugh (born 1893), Harold (born 1896), and Robert (born 1902). Robert Luckey graduated from Indiana University Medical School. Hugh Luckey became an oil inspector and later developed a lake resort community at nearby High Lake. Harold Luckey received an engineering degree from Tri-State University, but later enrolled in the Indiana University School of Medicine. Both Robert (Bob) and Harold received their surgical training in Vienna, Austria. Dr. James Luckey was also a trained surgeon. Luckey shared offices with his brother-in-law, a dentist, Dr. Hontz, from about 1918-1917.<sup>6</sup>

As was common practice, Dr. James Luckey made house calls. A story was relayed of a house call for a delivery in 1917. The child weighed only four pounds and was placed on the door to the oven of the wood cook stove to help keep her warm. The mother suffered from uremic poisoning and Luckey summoned a nurse from Ft. Wayne to help care for her. Luckey also performed surgery for his nephew, Frank Starkey, in the Starkey family's kitchen. Frank had a fractured and compressed skull for which Luckey inserted a steel plate in the frontal area of his skull.<sup>7</sup> This may have created the impetus for Luckey to construct a safe environment for surgeries.

Luckey was very seriously injured in 1918, requiring immediate medical intervention to save his life. Luckey had visited a local store in Wolf Lake when he was stabbed by a man. A witness wanted to take Luckey by automobile to the Luckey residence; however the doctor felt he could not withstand the car ride and instead walked several blocks to his home. A Ft. Wayne ambulance and several doctors from nearby towns were summoned and it was determined that Luckey would bleed to death if transported by ambulance, so he remained at his residence under the care of local physicians.<sup>8</sup>

Dr. James Luckey enjoyed hunting and fishing and would rather sit and visit with people than practice medicine. He made yearly trips to visit his sister near Ruby, Washington and hunt and fish while in the Northwest. James brought a bear cub back to Indiana; once it had grown it escaped its cage. Several men in the community helped catch the bear and required stitches from Dr. Luckey from cuts the bear inflicted.<sup>9</sup> Luckey also was charged with illegally trapping fish in a local lake by a conservation officer; ultimately the charges were dismissed. Dr. James Luckey was affectionately called "uncle doc" by his extended family in the area, and "old doc" by long-time residents of the community. He was a member of the Noble County Medical Association, the Northeast Indiana Academy of Medicine, and the American Medical Association. A fellow doctor described Luckey's input at the meetings of these organizations as authoritative and sound.<sup>10</sup> Luckey was also a member of the local Methodist Church, Wolf Lake Elks Lodge, Masonic Lodge, and a member of the Scottish Rite.

Dr. James Luckey died on May 14, 1938 after more than 46 years serving the medical needs of the area. His funeral was held at his residence and he is buried at the Wolf Lake Cemetery. His son Harold had been receiving surgical training in Austria when his father died. A large delegation of physicians and surgeons from Noble County and northeast Indiana

<sup>4</sup> History of the Luckey Hospital

<sup>5</sup> History of the Luckey Hospital

<sup>6</sup> Shultz, pg. 82

<sup>7</sup> History of the Luckey Hospital

<sup>8</sup> "Indiana News" *Journal of the American Medical Association*, August 3, 1918

<sup>9</sup> Interview with Shirley Hile

<sup>10</sup> "In Memory of Dr. J. E. Luckey", *Columbia City Post*, May 19, 1938

Luckey Hospital  
Name of Property

Noble County, IN  
County and State

attended the services.<sup>11</sup> It was said of Dr. Luckey that his community loved him for what he was, a kind, skillful, hard working, self-sacrificing doctor devoted to his professional duties.<sup>12</sup> In Luckey's lifetime the practice of medicine changed from country doctor and house visits to physicians' offices and hospitals. Luckey not only was a part of that change, but led in it by establishing his state of the art hospital in the small community of Wolf Lake.

#### *The Luckey Hospital*

Dr. James Luckey had established a five bed addition to his small medical building located behind his residence in Wolf Lake in 1928. By this time his son, Robert, had already graduated from medical school and joined his father in his practice. In 1929 the men embarked on the creation of a state of the art clinic and hospital facility for the region, primarily funded by James Luckey. They turned to their son and brother, Harold, who had an engineering degree from Tri-State, to design the building with their input. Construction began in 1929 and between 1930 and 1931 the new medical center became fully functional. The facility was equipped with fire protection, electricity, nurse call equipment, surgical center, and a full dining area with kitchen. The Luckey Hospital also acted as the village drugstore for the community of Wolf Lake.

At the time the Luckey Hospital opened the nearest hospitals were the McCray Hospital in Kendallville, also in Noble County, and the hospital in Columbia City. This left a considerable area not serviced by a hospital for emergency care, surgeries, or maternity care. The Luckey Hospital was designed to fill the gap of services and excel in patient care. Within two years of being fully operational the Luckey Hospital had recorded 250 surgical cases and 7,475 treatments, examinations, and prescriptions in the outpatient department. Doctors from all over the region brought patients to the facility. One of Ft. Wayne's premier surgeons during the 1930s-40s, Dr. Cecil McHedron, traveled to Wolf Lake to use the hospital's surgical center.

Hours of operation for the hospital were 9:00-11:30 a.m., 1:00-5:00 p.m., and 7:00-9:00 p.m. every day except Wednesdays and Sundays. Appointments to see the doctors were not taken; rather it was first come, first served. Births were recorded at the county seat, Albion, once a month. It is unclear how many births occurred at the Luckey Hospital since typically births were recorded as "Wolf Lake" rather than specifically at the hospital. Births were one of Dr. Robert's main responsibilities. While Dr. James still conducted home deliveries, the practice had nearly ended by 1932.

By 1931 area funeral homes offered transportation of patients to the hospital via their hearses. Until this time patients were generally delivered to the hospital by private cars. The hospital was designed to accommodate deliveries from hearses at its back doors which had a stepped threshold allowing for gurneys to be removed easily from the back of the hearse. These transportation services were provided by Krider's Funeral Home in Churubusco and Hollingsworth and DeMoney Funeral Homes in Columbia City.

After Dr. James Luckey's death in 1938 the second floor of the Luckey residence was converted into nurses' quarters and nurses came and went from the hospital to the house utilizing the tunnel Dr. Luckey had constructed for himself. Nurses were provided with housing, uniforms, meals, and \$16.00 a week in pay. The building was staffed with a head nurse and two additional nurses during the day and one nurse and a few nurses' aids during evening hours. The nurses were trained at the Luckey Hospital. Part of the nurses' responsibility was to gather cash for groceries which were purchased locally.<sup>13</sup>

The hospital was utilized after a train accident which resulted in a number of injuries in Cromwell. Being understaffed for the demand, the nurse on duty called her son who operated the Wolf Lake Hardware for assistance. Dr. James Luckey called upon Joe Starkey (father of Shirley Starkey Hile) at the age of 19 to assist with restraining patients. After World War II the baby boom created a shortage of space in the maternity ward of the hospital. At one time all four maternity beds were filled and beds were set up in the hallway of the third floor. The nurses used dresser drawers to hold infants because of the lack of space in the nursery.<sup>14</sup> Dr. Harold Luckey designed and constructed an incubator for smaller babies out of a box and a light tube.

<sup>11</sup> "Death Claims Noble County Physician", *Columbia City Post*, May 14, 1938

<sup>12</sup> "In Memory of Dr. J. E. Luckey", *Columbia City Post*, May 19, 1938

<sup>13</sup> Interview with Shirley Hile

<sup>14</sup> Interview with Shirley Hile

Luckey Hospital

Name of Property

Noble County, IN

County and State

Dr. Robert Luckey suffered an injury which forced his retirement in 1938; he died in 1961. Dr. Harold Luckey was responsible for the administration of the hospital from 1938 to 1946. In 1946 Dr. Harold Luckey persuaded his friend Dr. John Fair to join the hospital staff. Three generations of the Luckey family worked in the hospital. Drs. James, Robert, and Harold Luckey, and Dr. Roth, Harold's son-in-law, and Dr. Jim Luckey, Harold's son, all practiced from the Luckey Hospital. Dr. James Roth began with the hospital in 1946 after serving in the army in World War II. Dr. Jim Luckey began at the hospital in 1957. Dr. Harold Luckey retired from the hospital in 1955 and died in 1960.<sup>15</sup>

In 1957 Whitley County opened a new hospital in Columbia City, which made the privately operated Luckey Hospital somewhat obsolete. Dr. Roth made a decision to close the hospital in 1959. Though the hospital operation was phased out, the building continued to be used as a physicians' office building for the community. The doctors utilized the first story only. In 1961 the doctors constructed a new physicians' office building and vacated the Luckey Hospital. The building was purchased in 1962 by Patricia Phalen and converted into a nursing home. The patient and larger rooms were used for residents and the lobby and main doctor's office were used for common space. The facility was named the C. J. Hocker Memorial Nursing Home in memory of Phalen's father.<sup>16</sup>

Phalen was killed in an automobile accident which prompted the sale of the facility in 1965. The building was purchased by Bessie Luckey (Harold's wife) and their daughter Joan Roth, R.N. for use as a nursing home. At that time it was renamed the Luckey Memorial Nursing Home which continued to operate until 1975. The building had additional commercial and residential uses through the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century until Luckey's great nieces purchased the building in 2000. The sisters, Mary Goodrich and Shirley Hile, collected medical artifacts and furnished the building as it would have been furnished during its early years as a hospital. Currently the building functions as a medical museum with several of the rooms furnished according to their original functions during the building's use as a hospital.

---

**Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)**

*The Wolf Lake Community*

The first settler in Noble County was Joel Bristol who constructed a shelter 3 ½ miles southeast of Wolf Lake in Noble Township in 1827. Wolf Lake was founded in Noble Township in 1832; it was platted in 1836 along the Ft. Wayne and Goshen Road (US 33) by Patrick Miller and Andrew Stewart. 71 lots were created in the original plat. There were about six to eight families living in Wolf Lake in 1836 and a post office was established there in 1837.<sup>17</sup> Wolf Lake, though the oldest settlement in Noble County, never had its founders' dream realized to become the county seat. That distinction ultimately went to Albion. The land surrounding Wolf Lake was largely marsh with several lakes and was considered in early county histories to have "more wasteland than any other township, half covered in lakes and half in marshes."<sup>18</sup>

In 1865 Wolf Lake had a cabinet maker, a general merchant, a hotel keeper for the Lake House Hotel, a boot and shoe manufacturer, and a saddle and harness dealer. By 1874 Wolf Lake had developed several additional businesses including three dry goods and grocery stores, a general mercantile, and men engaged as coopers and carpenters. The 1874 Atlas of Wolf Lake shows the town platted to the northeast edge of Wolf Lake and a total of ten buildings constructed in designated lots including a public square with a school constructed in 1850, and a Baptist church; both buildings were located on Main Street.

By 1893 a new school had been constructed north of Main Street, but the Public Square remained free from buildings. Thirty-two businesses were listed in that year's directory. That list included the Lakeview House Hotel, a livestock dealer, harness maker, two painters, a wagon & carriage shop, four general stores, a meat market, two carpenters, two shoemakers, a hardware, two restaurants/saloons, a barber, two blacksmiths, an undertaker, a flouring mill, a cooper, druggist, and a sawmill.<sup>19</sup>

---

<sup>15</sup> Shultz, pg. 83

<sup>16</sup> "Wolf Lake to have Modern Nursing Home", *Columbia City Post*, Sept., 1962

<sup>17</sup> 1882 History of Noble County, pg. 251

<sup>18</sup> 1874 Illustrated Atlas of Noble County, pg. 13

<sup>19</sup> 1893 Noble County Business Directory, pg. 22A

Luckey Hospital  
Name of Property

Noble County, IN  
County and State

In 1908 Wolf Lake had a similar composition of businesses and the town included about 83 households. The community also had formed its own band by 1910. By 1914 a small addition with 20 lots had been created on the northeast side of town and a new high school was being proposed for construction in 1915. Wolf Lake had slow population growth; in 1882 the community had a population of 200, in 1920 it had just 220 inhabitants.<sup>20</sup> The community was largely agriculturally based; nearby onion fields provided the impetus to establish the Wolf Lake Onion Festival, a tradition since before 1908. The town's location on US 33 provided connections to larger cities like Ft. Wayne and Goshen and the highway's designation as the Lincoln Highway created a steady stream of traffic through the town well into the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

1874 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of Noble County, Indiana*. Andreas & Baskin, publishers. Chicago

1882 *History of Noble County*. FA Battey & Co., publisher, Chicago.

1893 *Noble County Directory*, O. Morrow, Civil Engineer, Compiler. Western Publishing Co. Madison, WI

1908 *Noble County Directory*

*Columbia City Post*, various articles located in the Luckey Hospital Museum's Clippings File:

"Death Claims Noble County Physician", *Columbia City Post*, May 14, 1938, page number unknown.

"In Memory of Dr. J. E. Luckey", *Columbia City Post*, May 19, 1938, page number unknown.

"Wolf Lake to have Modern Nursing Home", *Columbia City Post*, September, 1962, page number unknown.

*History of the Luckey Hospital*, unpublished. Compiled by Danny Stangland and Krisin Mains, 2006. The compilation includes interviews and stories from several individuals who were employed with or were patients of the hospital.

Interview with Shirley Starkey Hile, Great niece of Dr. James E. Luckey. Hile was born at the hospital in 1935.

*Journal of the American Medical Association*, bound articles Volume 71, Part 1. "Indiana News" Page 392, August 3, 1918. Chicago

Shultz, Linda Nash, *Albion Memories 1908-1976*. 1976, Self-published

Waddell, Robert M., *History of northeast Indiana: LaGrange, Steuben, Noble and DeKalb Counties*, 1920. Lewis Pub. Co., Chicago

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): None assigned

<sup>20</sup> Waddell, pg. 417-419



Luckey Hospital

Noble County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Luckey Hospital

City or Vicinity: Wolf Lake

County: Noble State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: October 16, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0001 South and east facades, facing northwest

1 of 15.

Name of Property: Luckey Hospital

City or Vicinity: Wolf Lake

County: Noble State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: October 16, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0002 South and west facades, facing northeast

2 of 15.

Name of Property: Luckey Hospital

City or Vicinity: Wolf Lake

County: Noble State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: July 20, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0003 North and west facades, facing southeast

3 of 15.

Name of Property: Luckey Hospital

City or Vicinity: Wolf Lake

County: Noble State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Luckey Hospital

Noble County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

Date Photographed: July 20, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0004 Exterior wall and fireplace, facing north

4 of 15.

Name of Property: Luckey Hospital

City or Vicinity: Wolf Lake

County: Noble State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: July 20, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0005 Typical patient room with closet, facing north

5 of 15.

Name of Property: Luckey Hospital

City or Vicinity: Wolf Lake

County: Noble State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: October 16, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0006 Main corridor on second story, facing east

6 of 15.

Name of Property: Luckey Hospital

City or Vicinity: Wolf Lake

County: Noble State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: October 16, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0007 Delivery room, facing northeast

7 of 15.

Name of Property: Luckey Hospital

City or Vicinity: Wolf Lake

County: Noble State: IN

Luckey Hospital

Noble County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: July 20, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0008 Main corridor on third story, facing west  
8 of 15.

Name of Property: Luckey Hospital

City or Vicinity: Wolf Lake

County: Noble State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: July 20, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0009 X-ray room, facing northwest  
9 of 15.

Name of Property: Luckey Hospital

City or Vicinity: Wolf Lake

County: Noble State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: July 20, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0010 Main corridor on first story, facing west  
10 of 15.

Name of Property: Luckey Hospital

City or Vicinity: Wolf Lake

County: Noble State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: October 16, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0011 Elevator and stairs on first story from hospital lobby, facing north  
11 of 15.

Name of Property: Luckey Hospital

Luckey Hospital

Noble County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

City or Vicinity: Wolf Lake

County: Noble State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: October 16, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0012 Exam room, facing south

12 of 15.

Name of Property: Luckey Hospital

City or Vicinity: Wolf Lake

County: Noble State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: July 20, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0013 Main corridor on first story, facing east

13 of 15.

Name of Property: Luckey Hospital

City or Vicinity: Wolf Lake

County: Noble State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: July 20, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0014 Clinic lobby, facing south

14 of 15.

Name of Property: Luckey Hospital

City or Vicinity: Wolf Lake

County: Noble State: IN

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: July 20, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0015 Main doctor's office fireplace, facing west

15 of 15.

Luckey Hospital  
Name of Property

Noble County, IN  
County and State

---

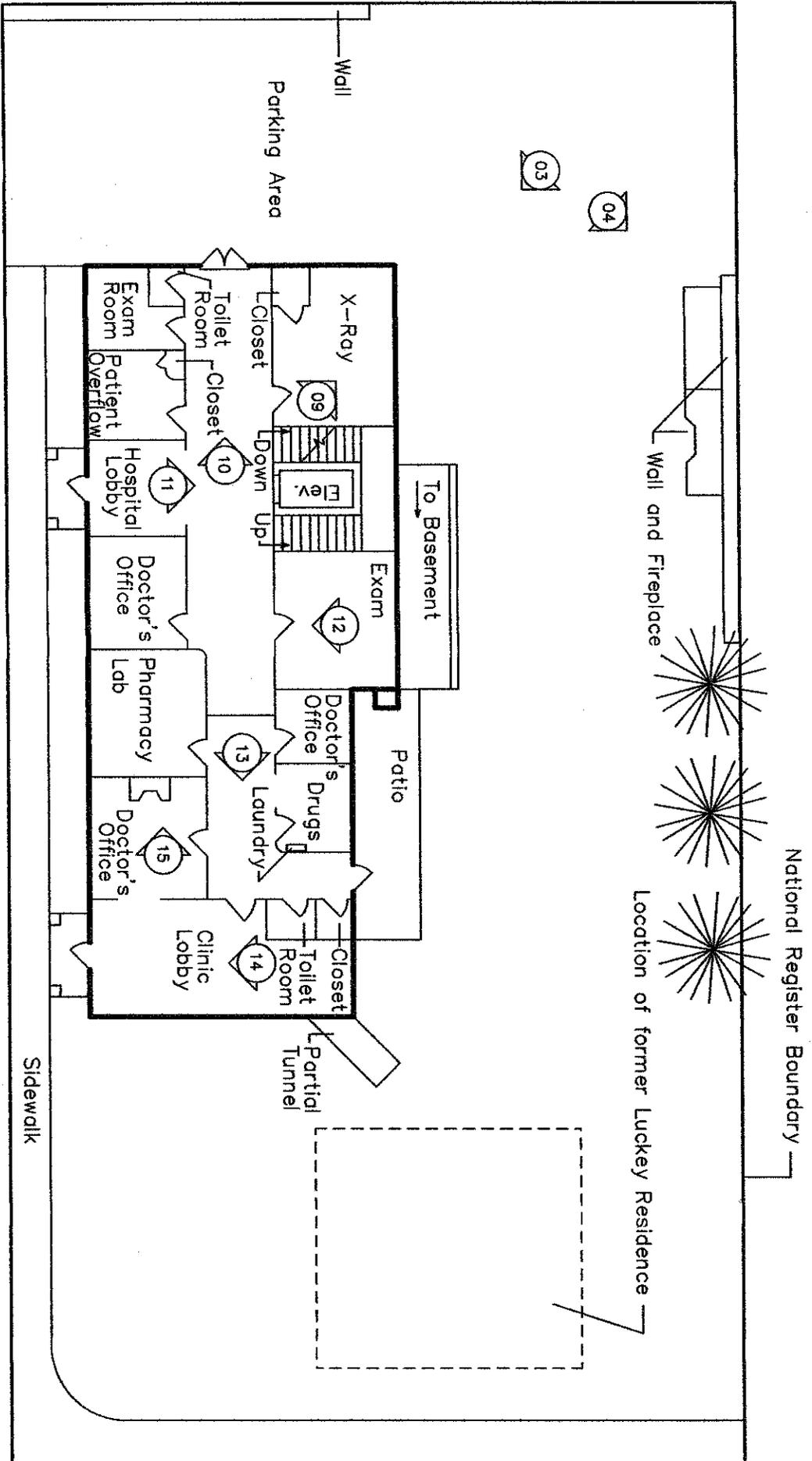
**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Shirley Starkey Hile, Luckey Hospital Museum  
street & number P.O. Box 143 telephone 260-635-2490  
city or town Wolf Lake state IN zip code 46796

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

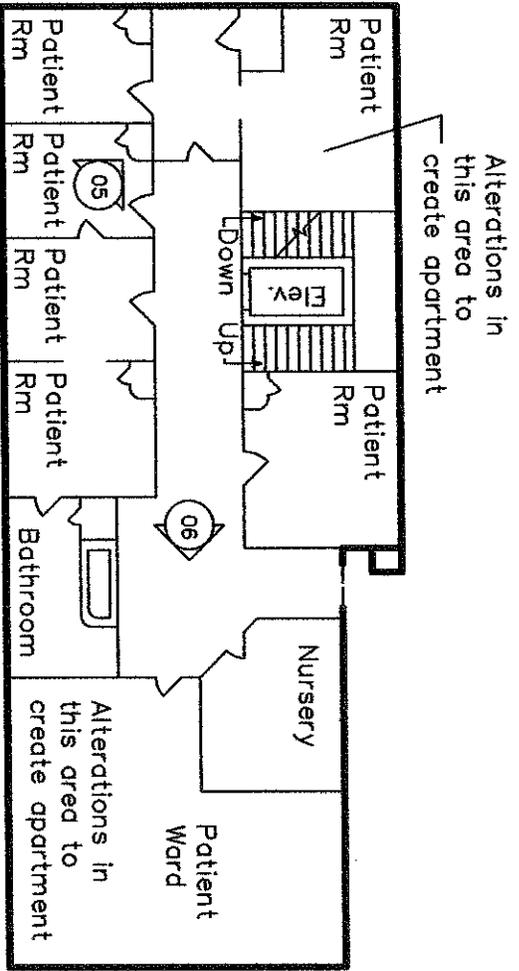
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



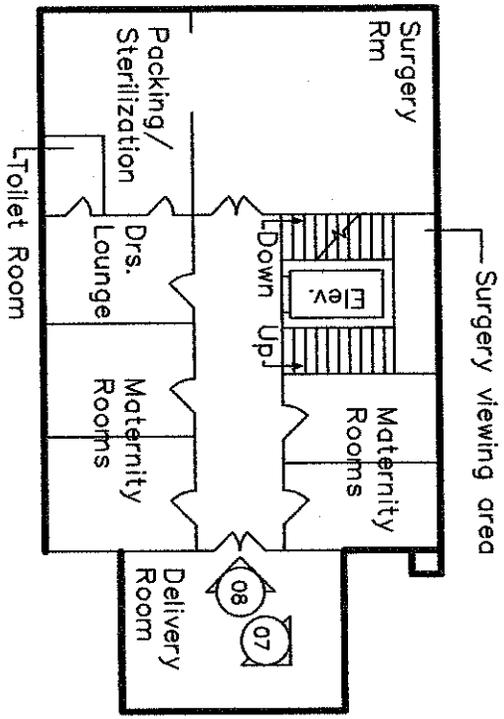
Lucky Key Hospital  
 Site Plan and First Story  
 Approximate Scale: 1/16" = 1'-0"

00 = PHOTOGRAPHS





Luckey Hospital  
 Second Story  
 Approximate Scale: 1/16" = 1'-0"



Luckey Hospital  
 Third Story  
 Approximate Scale: 1/16" = 1'-0"



Lucky Hospital, Noble County, IN #0001



Lucky Hospital, Noble County, IN #0002



Lucketts Hospital, Noble County, IN #0003



Lucketts Hospital, Noble County, IN #0004



Lucky Hospital, Noble County, IN #0006



Lucky Hospital, Noble County, IN #0007



Lucky Hospital, Noble County, IN #0009



Lucky Hospital, Noble County, IN #0014