INDIANA LUSTRON HOMES
COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS, CA. 2000

Collection Information

Historical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

Jared Hilligoss
28 July 2008

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:
1 Box of color photographs

COLLECTION CA:
Ca. 2000
HISTORICAL SKETCH

Lustron homes were designed to be affordable, maintenance-free housing. They were developed by Carl Strandlund in 1946. Strandlund had originally been seeking large quantities of steel to build gas stations for Standard Oil of Indiana. Due to the World War, there were still restrictions on the use of steel, but one of the available uses for steel at the time was housing. Strandlund decided to use the steel panels originally designed for gas stations as a way to build homes. He traveled to Washington, D.C. to secure loans and materials for the company, promising to build a hundred houses a day. Congress jumped at the opportunity to meet the housing needs associated with the end of the war, and they loaned over $15 million to Strandlund and his business. That same month, June 1947, Strandlund became the controlling stockholder of Lustron Corporation. However, costs quickly soared and the initial retail price for a Lustron home, $7,000, soon rose to over $11,000. It also took longer than the anticipated 150 man hours to erect, taking almost 350 hours. Over time, with the experience gained, workers were able to put up the homes in about 200 hours. Unfortunately by 1949, Lustron was losing $1.5 million a month, and the government ordered foreclosure in February 1950.

Although the Lustron Corporation is a thing of the past, Lustron homes have lived up to their promise of being nearly maintenance-free. The paint was baked into the enamel tiles on the exterior walls and therefore never need to be repainted. The shingles were also made of steel and almost all Lustron homes that are still standing have their original roof. Although comparatively small at 1,000 square feet, the architects took extreme measures in saving space. Book shelves were built into the walls, interior doors would roll into the walls, and the dish washer doubled as a washing machine. The common complaint about the Lustron home was the design of the furnace. It was built into the ceiling so that the heat would radiate down into the room. But, since heat rises, the heat never reached the rest of the room and the floors were unbearably cold. Many of the heating systems had to be modified.

In two years there were 2,498 homes produced by Lustron, and 159 of those were built in Indiana.

Sources:
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection includes 300 color snapshots of 123 Lustron houses located in Indiana. The photographs were taken by the donor around the year 2000 and document the location and the condition of the houses at that time. He recorded identifying information on the verso of each photograph.

The photographs are stored in one shoebox size box. They are organized in the collection guide alphabetically by city. They are then stored by the county name. This gives researchers the option of searching the collection guide for houses in a particular county or city.

Extra information in the collection guide includes: some homeowner’s names that were provided at the time the pictures were taken, these are included in parenthesis; some interior photographs and those are identified; the two Lustron houses in Indiana that are on the National Register of Historic Places.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS CONTAINER

Albany, Indiana:

925 E. State St.

Color Photographs: Box 1

Delaware County

Anderson, Indiana:

1729 W. 11th St.

Color Photographs: Box 1

Madison County

913 W. Vineyard

Angola, Indiana:

314 Gilmore

Color Photographs: Box 1

Steuben County

Auburn, Indiana:

700 block of Ohio Street

Color Photographs: Box 1

Dekalb County

909 N. Van Buren

Beech Grove, Indiana:

210 S. 10th Ave.

Color Photographs: Box 1

Marion County

Bloomington, Indiana:

1901 Maxwell Lane

Color Photographs: Box 1

Monroe County

330 Smith Rd.

4040 Maxwell Lane

309 S. Mitchell

402 S. Highland
400 S. Highland

**Brazil, Indiana:**

SR 340 West Side of Brazil  
US 40 on East Side of Brazil  
US 40 on East Side of Brazil (Mershon)

**Brownstown, Indiana:**

US 50 and SR 39

**Burney, Indiana:**

748 County Rd. 850 W

**Cambridge City, Indiana:**

US 40 and SR 1

**Chesterton, Indiana:**

411 Bowser (National Register of Historic Places)

**Columbus, Indiana:**

1811 Laurel Dr.  
3121 National Rd.

**Danville, Indiana:**

49 Maple St.

**Elkhart, Indiana:**

222 West Blvd.

**Evansville, Indiana:**

703 Sonntag  
723 Sonntag  
3918 West Upper Van Ness  
418 South Kelsey  
2650 Maryland Street  
3918 N. Upper Mt. Vernon Rd.  
3617 West New Harmony Road  
6118 W. Hogue  
1419 Brookside Dr.  
1423 West Brookside Dr.  
1619 West Brookside Dr.  
5821 West Madison (John Werner)  
3011 Lincoln

**Fort Wayne, Indiana:**

400 S. Highland

**Clay County**

**Jackson County**

**Decatur County**

**Wayne County**

**Porter County**

**Bartholomew County**

**Hendricks County**

**Elkhart County**

**Vanderburgh County**

**Color Photographs:**

Box 1
2510 North Oakridge Rd.  
4127 South Rosewood  
1133 Somerset Lane  
415 West Maple Grove  
4105 South Webster  
1928 Glenwood  
2857 E. Muncie Rd. on Little Cedar Lake  
3214 North Parnell  
316 W. Fleming (Huffman’s)

Greendale, Indiana:  
226 Parkside  
863 Sunset Ln.  
82 Cook Ave.  
86 Cook Ave.  
230 Cook Ave.

Greenfield, Indiana:  
737 South State  
720 N. East St.

Greenwood, Indiana:  
1159 North Bluff Rd.

Hammond, Indiana:  
1511 Caroline  
7423 Woodman

Hanover, Indiana:  
104 Crowe St.

Indianapolis, Indiana:  
8081 West Crawfordsville Rd.  
1029 Hawthorne  
6212 South Action  
5402 S. Shelby  
3623 Gladstone  
1728 N. Leland – includes interior (National Register of Historic Places)  
2079 E. Broad Ripple Ave.  
3821 E. 42nd St.  
3819 E. 42nd St.  
3880 W. 92nd St.  
5636 Indianola  
3101 Campbell  
1908 E. Kessler Blvd.  
5340 E. St. Joseph St. – includes interior  
3646 N. Denny

Color Photographs:  
Box 1

Allen County  
Allen County  
Hancock County  
Johnson County  
Lake County  
Jefferson County  
Marion County
3920 Denwood
3825 N. Sherman
6452 Broadway
6212 Central – includes interior
6312 Central
6466 N. Central
6435 N. Riverview Dr. (Central) – includes interior
Oaklandon, Indiana:
6546 N. Olvey

Kentland, Indiana:
315 Ray St.

LaPorte, Indiana:
2408 South Monroe

Lebanon, Indiana:
1111 N. Lebanon St.
1005 N. East St.

LaPorte County

Madison, Indiana:
1441 Michigan Rd.

Jefferson County

Marion, Indiana:
318 E. 7th St.
1320 N. Wabash
909 West Sixth
4601 South Washington St. (B.W. Shultz)
3501 South Galletin

Grant County

Milan, Indiana:
813 South Warn St.

Ripley County

Miller, Indiana:
9317 Lakeshore Dr.

Lake County

Muncie, Indiana:
3108 N. Amhurst
3004 West Devon Road
3109 W. Devon Road
5100 N. Everett at Grace Lane
1621 S. Mulberry

Delaware County

Oldenburg, Indiana:
2020 S. SR 229

Franklin County
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Street Address</th>
<th>Color Photographs:</th>
<th>County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ossian, Indiana</td>
<td>8557 N. SR 1 and 300 E. (C.N. Ditmar)</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Wells County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru, Indiana</td>
<td>500 N. Broadway</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Miami County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redkey, Indiana</td>
<td>203 N. Spencer</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Jay County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond, Indiana</td>
<td>3228 E. Avon Lane</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Wayne County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rising Sun</td>
<td>504 Willow St.</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Ohio County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schererville</td>
<td>1319 US 30 near US 41</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Lake County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirkieville, Indiana</td>
<td>US 150</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Vigo County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Bend, Indiana</td>
<td>1211 Black Oak</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>St. Joseph County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1920 E. Kesser</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2131 N. Olive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>303 Ironwood</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3420 Mishawaka</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2417 Sampson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straughn, Indiana</td>
<td>5151 East Walnut St.</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Henry County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terre Haute, Indiana</td>
<td>3318 Oak Ave.</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Vigo County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>650 Oak Dr.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>827 S. Center</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>204 S. McKinney Blvd.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3105 S. Wabash</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tipton, Indiana</td>
<td>308 N. Independence</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Tipton County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wabash, Indiana</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
550 N. Wabash Ave.
Wabash County

Westfield, Indiana:

327 N. Union – includes interior

Color Photographs:
Box 1
Hamilton County

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:  http://opac.indianahistory.org/
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P 0203).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.