

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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Frost, Dr. Robert & Amelia, House

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

Residential Planning & Development in Indiana, 1940-1973

2. Location

Street & number: 3215 Cleveland Avenue

City or town: Michigan City State: IN County: LaPorte

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

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

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____ Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ Title :</p>	<p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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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

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT: International

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: METAL: Aluminum
GLASS
roof: SYNTHETICS: Rubber
other: _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Dr. Robert and Amelia Frost House is an exceptional example of International Style architecture executed as a prefabricated home by the Alside Home Corporation, designed by Emil Tessin. The house was constructed in 1964 for the Frosts in a modern subdivision of Michigan City. The single-story, flat-roofed house has a exposed metal skeleton frame between which are fastened aluminum panels, some brightly-colored, and large expansive windows in metal frames.

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Narrative Description

Exterior

Photos 0001-0006

The Dr. Robert and Amelia Frost House is located on a large double lot on Michigan City's southeast side. The neighborhood was a mature forest when it was platted in the 1950s-1960s and many large, old trees remained on the lot when the house was constructed in 1964 (see photo 0001). The south half of the lot is occupied by the house while the north half of the lot includes an in-ground pool, landscaping and polycarbonate and steel fence (photo 0006). A concrete driveway leads to the garage, attached to the north end of the house, and concrete walkways and patios are located off the front door and bedrooms, respectively (photo 0002, 0005). The yard is heavily shaded by mature trees and the backyard is fairly secluded through the use of evergreens and a wood privacy fence (photo 0003). The fencing and pool are considered non-contributing structures. The property contains a significant amount of historic landscaping in the form of boulders, ivy, and evergreens (photo 0001). Landscape beds near the house are covered with washed river stone (photo 0003).

The one-story house is on a concrete basement, under the center portion, and concrete slab under the south portion, garage, and enclosed back porch. The house features an external, skeleton-like metal frame painted black (see photo 0002). Aluminum panels and glass form bays to enclose the walls within the metal frame. Some of the panels are painted brilliant shades of yellow and blue, the remainder are white (photos 0001-0002). The roof is flat and hidden behind metal flashing, also painted black.

The house is generally broken into four cube-like portions: living/dining, kitchen, bedrooms, and garage. The garage and bedroom sections step forward in the front (east) façade at the north and south ends, respectively. This allows the living/dining and kitchen areas to be recessed in the façade where a wide concrete walkway, covered with an extension of the black metal frame, leads from the driveway to the front doors (photo 0002). The garage section, at the north end, features two garage doors divided by four horizontal panels (right side of photo 0001). The south wall of the garage, facing the covered walkway, is divided into a floor-to-ceiling door in its east end and a wide yellow panel in the west end (right side of photo 0002).

The middle section, which is recessed, features a wide white panel in its north end, followed by a window, narrow blue panel, followed by a wide blue panel (photo 0002). These cover the kitchen section of the house. A pair of floor-to-ceiling wood doors, painted brilliant green, are in the north end of the living/dining section and a window is in the south end of this section (left side of photo 0003). A flat metal roof extends out from the doors to the east end of the exposed frame to create a covering over the walkway in front of the doors (seen in photo 0003). The front wall of the bedroom section features a wide yellow panel in its north end, followed by two pairs of floor-to-ceiling patio doors with windows flanking the doors (left side of photo 0001). The north-facing wall of the bedroom section (toward the walkway) features a wide white panel. This panel, along with the yellow panel that faces east, conceal the home's bathrooms.

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The back/west façade is divided into three sections, with the garage and bedroom areas recessed from the façade on the north and south ends, respectively. The living/dining room section is centered in the façade with an enclosed porch to its north end (photo 0003). The east wall of the garage features two wide yellow panels with a floor-to-ceiling wood door, painted white, in its south end (left side of photo 0003). The enclosed porch has a terrazzo floor and flat roof, and features a continuation of the black-painted metal frame of the house. Between the frame are floor-to-ceiling screens and windows on the north and west walls. A floor-to-ceiling glass door is centered in the porch's north wall. A continuation of the porch terrazzo floor extends north and becomes a sidewalk outside of the porch door and connects to the garage door in the west façade. A wide white panel is south of the enclosed porch. It is followed by two wide pairs of floor-to-ceiling patio doors that extend to the south end of the living/dining room section (left side of photo 0005). The south wall of this section faces a patio and features a wide white panel with a window in its east end. The west wall of the bedroom section features two bays with a pair of floor-to-ceiling patio doors in the north half of each bay, and a wide window in the south half of the bays. An extension of the black-painted metal frame creates a pergola-like open-air enclosure for two concrete patios outside of the bedrooms (right side of photo 0005).

The south façade, which is the south wall of the bedroom section, features two wide blue panels (photo 0004). The north façade, which is the north wall of the garage section, features two wide white panels (see in the background of the left side of photo 0006).

Interior

Photographs 0007-0016

The middle section of the house contains the foyer, living room and dining room. A hallway leads to the bedroom section off the south end of the foyer, and a passageway connects to the kitchen from the north end of the foyer. The foyer is separated from the living area by a wall of glass in a wood frame (photo 0013). A wall of built-in wood casework divides the hallway to the bedroom section from the living area in the south end of the space, the back of this, which faces the hallway, is covered with wood veneer (photos 0008, 0012). The large living room (photo 0007) is open to the dining area which is off the northwest corner of this section. The southeast corner of the living area features a wood veneer-covered wall adjacent to the built-in casework. A column, covered with wood veneer is near the center of the living area. The dining area (photo 0014) features a wall of wood veneer and passageway to the kitchen in its east wall. The north wall has a wide pair of glass patio doors that open to the enclosed porch.

The kitchen section is a long, narrow section between the garage and foyer. It features built-in cabinetry in its south and west walls and an island with counter centered in the kitchen (photo 0015). The north half of this section features a small sitting area with table for informal dining. A row of closets with wood bi-folding louvered doors is in the north wall with a door to the garage in its east end (photo 0016). The west wall of this area is all glass and overlooks the enclosed porch. A row of bi-folding louvered doors is in the east wall of the kitchen, opposite of the island, and conceals a stairway to the basement.

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The south section of the house includes three bedrooms and two bathrooms, divided by a long hallway that extends from the foyer to the south (left side of photo 0012). The west half of this section features two bedrooms with built-in wood casework and closets with wood bi-folding louvered doors. The casework features drawers, a shelf, and a mirrored back (photo 0011). The east half of the bedroom section features a master bedroom divided into a dressing area in the north and sleeping area in the south. These spaces are divided by a glass wall in a wood frame (photo 0010). Closets with wood bi-folding louvered doors are in the west wall of the bedroom and dressing area. A wood-veneer wall is in the south end of the west wall. The north wall of the dressing area features a pair of built-in casework areas of drawers, a shelf, and a mirror-faced top cabinet (photo 0009). A door to the bathroom is in the east end of the north wall. The bathroom features a tiled wall and shower area in its north end. A sink, cabinetry, and toilet are along the west wall of the bathroom. Three closets are in the hallway, two flank a bathroom door in the east wall and a narrow linen closet is in the west wall. The bathroom features a shower with tiled wall in its north end and casework with sink in its north wall. The toilet is along its east wall.

The interior has simple finishes with faux terrazzo flooring (a modern installation), wood veneer paneling on the walls, and ceilings covered with acoustic tiles. Bathrooms and the kitchen retain historic ceramic tiles on their walls (photo 0015). The wood bi-folding, louvered, closet doors are painted blue, yellow, and green. Solid doors are flush with flat wood veneer and are also painted. Brushed aluminum hardware are on the doors and built-in casework. The casework, in bathrooms, bedrooms, and the kitchen features wood veneer and flat-panel wood doors. Mirrored cabinet doors are found in the bathrooms and bedrooms. The house has extensive historic furnishings, including many of its original light fixtures.

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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.

Criteria Considerations

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

- 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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1964

Significant Dates

Significant Person (last name, first name)

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)

Tessin, Emil, II

Alside Homes Corporation

McCobb, Paul

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Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance is confined to when the building was constructed and then purchased by the Dr. Robert Frost family, in 1964.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C/architecture. An exceptional example of modern architecture, in adherence to International Style precepts, the house was a prefabricated design offered by Alside Homes. Designed for a growing market interested in modern architecture, Emil Tessin's creations were simply arranged and reproducible, using manufactured building components that were easily assembled regardless of location. The Frost House is a remarkably intact example from Alside's brief production period and it includes original finishes and furnishings.

The Frost House corresponds to property type 2, Single-Family Residential Dwelling, subtype, Prefabricated House, within the MPDF Residential Planning & Development in Indiana, 1940-1973. The Frost House meets the registration requirements for the type and subtype (see MPDF, pp. F279-F289). Its materials, roof form, massing, and setting are remarkably intact, and the house exemplifies Modern design inside and out to a high degree, which is a rarity in prefabricated housing of the period.

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

ARCHITECTURE

The Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House is architecturally significant for two reasons. It is an exceptional, intact residential example of the International Style. The house is also an example of a prefabricated, catalog dwelling designed by Emil Tessin II for Alside Homes. This concept, which began in the early 20th century with mail-order catalog homes, was not new, however, in both style and materials, the venture by Alside was noteworthy as it focused on metal and glass production, as well as built-in furnishings repeated in the homes.

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As an example of the International Style, the Frost House has obvious features including an exposed skeletal frame, panel-like skin with both aluminum wall panels, floor-to-ceiling doors and windows, and a flat roof (photos 0001-0002). The metal frame is most prominent on the front façade where it extends out from the recessed kitchen and living area to form an open-air pergola-like structure over the broad walkway to the front doors (photo 0002). Similarly, this is evident on the back (west) façade where the frame extends out from the bedrooms to create pergolas over patios in each bedroom bay (photo 0005). The frame is still readable in the walls of the house as windows and metal panels, in white and brilliant shades of blue and yellow, define the bays in the structural frame. Though the frame is not as evident on the interior, except for one column in the living area, the view out of the large windows and doors allow one to sense a continuation of the house to the outside by the extension of the frame in certain areas.

The panel-like composition of bays on the facades is highlighted by the change in their color or use of floor-to-ceiling patio doors and windows of single, large panes of glass. Where the doors are solid wood, they have a flat-panel design and are painted white to blend with other panels, or in the case of the pair of entry doors, brilliant green (photo 0002). This panel concept is carried to the interior by the use of panel-like walls of wood veneer and wood bi-folding louvered doors. The use of glass walls dividing the enclosed porch off the dining and kitchen areas further enhances elimination of the “wall” to bring the outside in and blur the separation of interior and exterior. This is also evident in the large living area where expansive openings are created by the use of rows of patio doors and wide windows. In some instances, one can see “through” the house by viewing it through front and back façade windows. This design technique also includes opaque glass walls between the foyer and living area and between the master bedroom and dressing area (photos 0010, 0013). It’s a continuation of light without full transparency for a level of privacy between those spaces.

The flat roof creates the strongest horizontal line to the one-story house by virtue of its tall metal flashing acting as a further expression of the building “frame” applied to the roofline. The consistency of the horizontal is only broken slightly with the extension of the structural frame out from the house (because there is no need for flashing), but it recovers slightly as a flat metal canopy extends out from the entry doors atop the frame to provide some protection from the weather (left side of photo 0002).

The International Style

The International Style’s roots were distinctly European, being made popular by Europe’s leading architects of the early to mid-twentieth century. Le Corbusier, Gropius, and Mies van der Rohe were all pioneers and well-known purveyors of the style. The style came to the United States during the 1930’s with practitioners who emigrated to escape turmoil in Europe. In 1932 the Museum of Modern Art in New York City first exhibited the style to the American public. The companion book to the exhibit, The International Style: Architecture Since 1922, was likely the first to coin the style and its features for the U.S. public. The return to construction after World War II and the design influence of the émigrés before, during and shortly after the war fostered the popularity of the style in the United States.

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While Americans were building in styles revived from early European precedents, European architects were experimenting with new and innovative building materials. The structural capabilities of concrete, steel, and glass were tested during this period. This led to the design of buildings with simple skeletal frames and walls that were hung like mere structural skin between the floors.¹ Mies van der Rohe was possibly the best known architect to popularize this building technique, particularly related to the glass box appearance of his designs. Mies was one of the primary proponents of the International Style in the United States after his emigration to the country. His design philosophy was largely disseminated during the 1940s and 1950s from the Illinois Institute of Technology campus, which he redesigned to fit this new architectural style.²

Besides the celebration of the structural frame, other important elements of the International Style included the treatment of windows and the use of glass walls to connect interiors to the landscape outside the building. Windows were considered the most conspicuous features of modern exterior design. By treating windows with light, simple frames the window became less “a mere hole in the wall” than a related expression of the structure and wall curtain the style promoted.³ Terraces were used to extend the house beyond its walled boundaries; however beyond the line of the terrace “the reign of nature should clearly begin.”⁴ Practitioners of the International Style treated interior walls as mere screens to allow the plan to be compliant to the function of the building. The concept of a flowing interior space, versus enclosed singular rooms, was a development of the International Style. Separation could be achieved with screening, and the screening, depending on the use of materials or sheer size, could provide a hierarchy for use of the space.⁵

The International Style was never popular for residential construction in the United States, and the relatively few houses built in that style are generally large landmark houses. In Northwest Indiana, most of the examples of International Style in residential design are found in lakeshore communities of Lake Michigan. Beverly Shores, about five miles west of Michigan City, has the best examples in the region. These include the attention-getting modern houses from the Century of Progress Home and Industrial Arts Group. Three International Style houses designed by Louis Solomon and built in 1948 in an enclave mark an important point in the move toward modern architecture in Beverly Shores. An International style house designed by Otto Kolb in 1949 followed. The Dr. John and Gerda Meyer House, constructed in 1961, has the most in common with the Frost House. The Meyer House’s metal frame, panel-like construction, and floor-to-ceiling windows and patio doors, and flat roof provide some of the same interior “feel” as the Frost House. Combined with the Frost House’s furnishings, both built-in and period pieces of furniture, the house has an impressive, harmony of Mid-Century Modern architecture of the International Style.

Alsido Homes Corporation & Emil Tessil II

¹ McAlester, pg. 469-470

² Curtis, pg. 261

³ Hitchcock, pg. 46-47

⁴ Hitchcock, pg. 77

⁵ Hitchcock, pg. 87

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The Frost House is the product of a marriage of prefabrication and high-style design between Ohio-based Alside Corporation and Emil Tessil II. Tessil, a Michigan native, graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a degree in building engineering (1953). He began working for Alside in 1957. By 1960, at the age of just 29, Tessil completed the design of Alside Corporation's expansive headquarters in Akron, Ohio. In 1961, Tessil was appointed Vice President-Chief Designer for Alside Homes. Before the close of 1961, Tessil, through Alside Corporation, filed a patent for a "modular house" with the United States Patent Office, rewarded under serial number 67,814 on September 11, 1962. The drawing included with the patent is almost identical to the Frost House. There were 22 designs conceived by Tessil for Alside Homes for production by their plant. Each package included the steel frame, aluminum-faced insulation panels (of Styrofoam), floor, roof, and window and doors. Included in the package were also interior finishes, such as ceramic tile and bath and kitchen fixtures, with a palette of colors for selection by the homeowner. Built-in casework and wood veneer for walls were also included, with brushed aluminum hardware true to the modern style (photos 0008, 0009, 0011). These were the creations of noted modern furniture designer Paul McCobb, who worked with Alside and Tessil in the development of the prefab concept. The interior, opaque glass partition walls are also a McCobb design feature (photo 0010, 0013).

The houses appeared in two important features in national magazines in 1961. *Life Magazine* ran an article in August calling them the "instant house". And in September, *House & Home Magazine* mentioned that the corporation was building an automated production facility costing \$7.5 million. By late 1962, the corporation targeted production capacity of 200 homes a day. Likely due to the significant amount of glazing in the homes, the Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Corporation invested \$10 million in the company in 1963. In that year, the company pushed the production of their prefab homes through an introduction of 22 models for odd-sized urban lots with the company and/or its dealers constructing the models in metropolitan areas. Sales centers opened in September with Alside Homes serving within a 600 mile radius of their plant in Akron. The first model was built on Alside's campus, which had its construction and opening documented by Ezra Stoller, a New York photographer. The Akron sales center had 50,000 visitors and Detroit's center had 60,000 visitors. In total, seven sales centers were opened, five owned by the company and two by builders. Models were outfitted with furniture by noted furniture designer, Florence Knoll, who had studied under Mies van der Rohe and Eliel Saarinen. Knoll's legal guardian during her youth in Saginaw, Michigan was Judge Emil Tessin I, Tessin II's father.

The first house was sold as a result of the sales push. Tessil was named one of the top 12 performers of the industry. In that announcement, the article states "Whatever their sales success, the design-for-production of Alside Homes 22 crisply contemporary models portends much for the future of industrialized housing." The same article stated that manufacturing was controlled by "electronic brains" and that Alside constituted "one of prefabrication's biggest bets yet on the quality market."⁶

⁶ www.theFrostHouse.com

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An advertisement that appeared in a St. Louis area newspaper invited people to see the model homes constructed by a building company in Lake Shore Homes, Carterville, IL. The advertisement states “How to be happy, even if you’re married. Buy an Alside home....we won’t go so far as to say that Alside Homes will revolutionize your married life exactly. But they do create the kind of climate good marriages thrive on.”⁷

Sales proved to be lack-luster and it is estimated fewer than 200 of the models were sold and erected. Thirty-three of these have been identified across seven states by the owners of the Frost House, thirty-one of those are still standing (2018). By January of 1964, only 94 homes had shipped. Thirty of those were direct to consumers while the remaining majority were to dealers as models. Alside reported that they had priced the homes too low for the quality they promised buyers, and by August the company reported they lost \$2.5 million in the first half of the year. The company closed its sales centers and only took orders from dealers. In September 1964, the company ceased production. While it is unknown entirely the reason for the lack of sales, some concerns included that they looked too much like motels of the era, that there was a lack of privacy with the large windows in the bedrooms, the cost of materials grew rapidly during their roll out and construction, and that finding inexpensive, suitable lots for their size in urban areas was difficult. Building codes also may have played a role in their demise in urban areas due to the new use of Styrofoam insulation sandwiched in the wall, ceiling and floor panels.

It was noted by one employee of Alside that Tessil and Jerome Kaufman (head of the corporation) had a contentious relationship. While Tessil’s emphasis was on the quality of architecture, Kaufman’s was on profitability. Reports indicate that some invoices to suppliers went unpaid and while the siding component of the company flourished, the sales of housing units was not profitable. By December 1963, Tessil left Alside Home Corporation and a year later, he sued over a non-compete clause in his contract. Tessil contested that since Alside was no longer in the home production business, he should be allowed to work for other corporations in that industry. Between 1966 and 1974, Tessil worked primarily as an executive officer in a number of different corporations and/or development groups. He died in Newport Beach, California in 1983. In that year, a large mobile home park called Carson Harbor Village was sold by his estate. It was just five years old and the sale was for \$8 million. This was likely Tessil’s last development project before his death at the age of just 52.

The Frost House (designated as Alside Model 2340) was built in 1964 as a model home by a dealer/builder in Michigan City. Several lots lining Cleveland Avenue were purchased by the builder in an area of the city’s south side that included several examples of modern architecture. The subdivision, platted in a naturally wooded area, provided large suburban lots for sprawling, one-story, Mid-century Modern architecture (photo 0001). The Frost House is located on three lots and is flanked on Cleveland Avenue (north and south) by two other, differing models of Alside Homes. These have been somewhat altered over the years. The one to the north is a side-gabled roof version, slightly smaller than the Frost House, while the one to the south is a gabled-

⁷ www.theFrostHouse.com

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ell version. The Frost House survives remarkably intact due to its ownership by just the Dr. Frost Family until the current owners purchased the home.

Dr. Robert Frost was born in 1918 in New York. He married Amelia Dominick of Michigan City in 1944 at Notre Dame, Indiana. Frost graduated from Notre Dame in 1940 and from Georgetown University School of Medicine in 1943. He started his practice in Michigan City in 1952 and retired in 1983. Prior to his purchase of the model house, Dr. Frost lived at 405 Wilshire Avenue, a few blocks west of the Alside home. Dr. Frost purchased the model house, including the Knoll furnishings it had been outfitted with, and lived there until his death in 2015. Amelia died in 2016. The Frosts are buried at Cedar Grove Cemetery, Notre Dame, Indiana.

In Indiana, the Thomas Wilson Company constructed an Alside model in Carmel's Wilson Village. It is a smaller model with a side-gabled roof, very much in the appearance of typical Ranch Houses. It is one of only four known to have been constructed in Indiana, the other three are those located on Cleveland Avenue in Michigan City. Of the other 29 Alside Homes known in the United States, 6 are in Illinois, 2 are in Maryland, 8 are in Michigan (one was lost to fire), 8 are in Ohio, 4 are in Pennsylvania and one is in New York. Because of the potential for residing campaigns on these homes, the most telling features of Alside Homes are typically interiors or if the skeletal frame extends out to form pergolas.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

“Alside Homes (The)”: An Analysis. Home Section. *The Blade Newspaper*. August 1964. Print.

Coscarelli, Robert & Karen (Valentine). The Frost House (2018). Retrieved from <https://thefrosthouse.com/>

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McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006.

Hitchcock, Henry-Russell & Johnson, Phillip, *The International Style: Architecture Since 1922*. New York, NY. W.W. Norton, 1932.

“How the next 25 years will change your Home: Aluminum”. *Look Magazine*. January 1962. Print.

“Signs of the Future: Instant Houses”. *Life Magazine*, pg. 40. 18 August 1961. Print.

* A preponderance of the information gathered on the Alside Homes Corporation, Emil Tessin II, and the investigative work on extant examples of the Alside Homes in the United States was completed and supplied by the owners of the Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House, Robert Coscarelli and Karen Valentine. The couple administers the Frost House website, which is the most authoritative work on the Alside Corporation’s venture in prefabricated home production.

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 # _____

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_____ 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): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

Use the UTM system

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 509614 | Northing: 4615411 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House
Name of Property

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property is generally known as Lots 3, 4, and 5 of Boyd & Garretson's 4th Addition to Michigan City, excluding some minor portions. Beginning at a point approximately 210' south of the southwest corner of the intersection of Cleveland Avenue and Garretson Avenue, on the west side of Cleveland Avenue (northeast property corner), face south and continue in a line with the west side of Cleveland Avenue 225' to the southeast corner of the property. Turn west and continue in a line with the south boundary of the property 150' to the southwest property corner. Turn north and continue in a line 225' to the northwest corner of the property, then turn east and continue in a line 150' to the northeast property corner, or the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The property described above are the three lots purchased by Dr. Frost that included the Alside model home. While the house is located on lots 4 and 5, Frost also purchase lot 3 in 1964 and it has always been associated with the house.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kurt West Garner
organization:
street & number: 12954 6th Road
city or town: Plymouth state: IN zip code: 46563
e-mail: kwgarner@kwgarner.com
telephone: 574-936-0613
date: November 7, 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House
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- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House

City or Vicinity: Michigan City

County: LaPorte State: Indiana

Photographer: Bob Coscarelli

Date Photographed: July 1, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Front (east) façade, facing west from Cleveland Avenue

1 of 16.

Name of Property: Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House

City or Vicinity: Michigan City

County: LaPorte State: Indiana

Photographer: Bob Coscarelli

Date Photographed: November 5, 2018

Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN
County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Front entry, facing northwest

2 of 16.

Name of Property: Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House

City or Vicinity: Michigan City

County: LaPorte State: Indiana

Photographer: Bob Coscarelli

Date Photographed: July 1, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Back (west) façade, looking southeast at enclosed porch

3 of 16.

Name of Property: Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House

City or Vicinity: Michigan City

County: LaPorte State: Indiana

Photographer: Bob Coscarelli

Date Photographed: November 5, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: South façade, looking northwest

4 of 16.

Name of Property: Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House

City or Vicinity: Michigan City

County: LaPorte State: Indiana

Photographer: Bob Coscarelli

Date Photographed: July 1, 2018

Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN
County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Back façade, south end/patio area, looking east

5 of 16.

Name of Property: Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House

City or Vicinity: Michigan City

County: LaPorte State: Indiana

Photographer: Bob Coscarelli

Date Photographed: July 1, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south toward house from north side of the pool

6 of 16.

Name of Property: Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House

City or Vicinity: Michigan City

County: LaPorte State: Indiana

Photographer: Bob Coscarelli

Date Photographed: July 1, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Living room, looking south from dining area

7 of 16.

Name of Property: Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House

City or Vicinity: Michigan City

County: LaPorte State: Indiana

Photographer: Bob Coscarelli

Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN
County and State

Date Photographed: July 1, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast at built-in casework on east wall of living room

8 of 16.

Name of Property: Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House

City or Vicinity: Michigan City

County: LaPorte State: Indiana

Photographer: Bob Coscarelli

Date Photographed: July 1, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking north at built-in casework in dressing area of master bedroom

9 of 16.

Name of Property: Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House

City or Vicinity: Michigan City

County: LaPorte State: Indiana

Photographer: Bob Coscarelli

Date Photographed: July 1, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast toward dressing area from master bedroom

10 of 16.

Name of Property: Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House

City or Vicinity: Michigan City

County: LaPorte State: Indiana

Photographer: Bob Coscarelli

Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN
County and State

Date Photographed: July 1, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast at built-in casework in southwest bedroom

11 of 16.

Name of Property: Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House

City or Vicinity: Michigan City

County: LaPorte State: Indiana

Photographer: Bob Coscarelli

Date Photographed: July 1, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south down hallway toward bedrooms, living area on right

12 of 16.

Name of Property: Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House

City or Vicinity: Michigan City

County: LaPorte State: Indiana

Photographer: Bob Coscarelli

Date Photographed: July 1, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast toward foyer from living area

13 of 16.

Name of Property: Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House

City or Vicinity: Michigan City

County: LaPorte State: Indiana

Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN
County and State

Photographer: Bob Coscarelli

Date Photographed: July 1, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking north toward dining area from living room

14 of 16.

Name of Property: Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House

City or Vicinity: Michigan City

County: LaPorte State: Indiana

Photographer: Bob Coscarelli

Date Photographed: July 1, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest in kitchen

15 of 16.

Name of Property: Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House

City or Vicinity: Michigan City

County: LaPorte State: Indiana

Photographer: Bob Coscarelli

Date Photographed: July 1, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast in sitting area of north end of kitchen, toward garage

16 of 16.

Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House
Name of Property

LaPorte County, IN
County and State

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.).

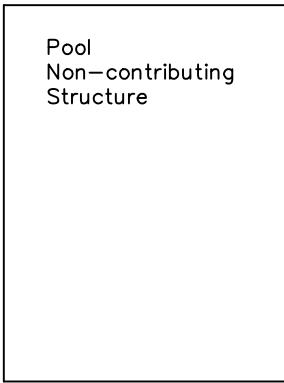
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Boundary

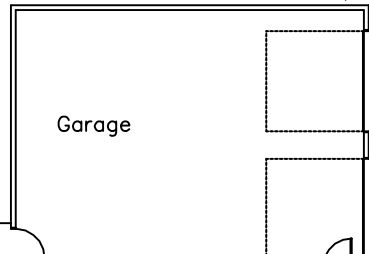
Fence
Non-contributing
Structure

Dr. Robert & Amelia Frost House
National Register of Historic Places
3215 Cleveland Ave.
Michigan City, IN
SITE PLAN
Less than 1 acre

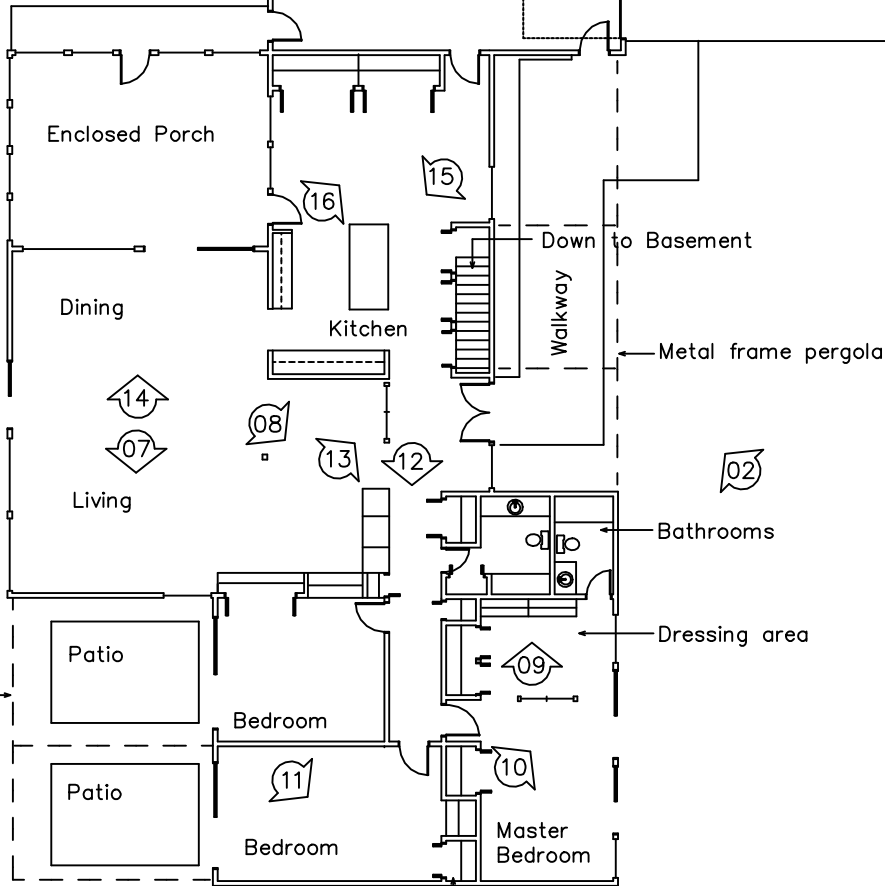
00 = Photographs



03



Driveway



01

Cleveland Avenue

Metal frame Pergola

06

Fence

04



Dr. Robert and Amelia Frost House, LaPorte County, IN photo 0001



Dr. Robert and Amelia Frost House, LaPorte County, IN photo 0002



Dr. Robert and Amelia Frost House, LaPorte County, IN photo 0003



Dr. Robert and Amelia Frost House, LaPorte County, IN photo 0006



Dr. Robert and Amelia Frost House, LaPorte County, IN photo 0008



Dr. Robert and Amelia Frost House, LaPorte County, IN photo 0010