

2-19-74

PH 0003507

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Indiana	
COUNTY: Switzerland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 15 1973

#### 1. NAME

COMMON: Edward and George Cary Eggleston Home House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 306 W. Main St.

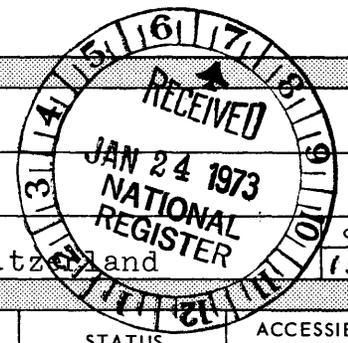
CITY OR TOWN: Vevay

STATE: Indiana

CODE: 18

COUNTY: Switzerland

CODE: 155



#### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

#### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. and Mrs. Max Rosenberger

STREET AND NUMBER: 306 W. Main St.

CITY OR TOWN: Vevay

STATE: Indiana

CODE: 18-155

#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Switzerland County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street - Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN: Vevay

STATE: Indiana

CODE: 18-155

#### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

OCT 15 1973

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Eggleston Home is a modestly-proportioned, rectangular two-story house with a low story-and-a-half ell extending to the rear. Its brick walls, now painted a cream color, are laid in common bond. Although extensively altered and lacking its original small-paned window sashing, the dwelling in scale and character is very typical of the early nineteenth-century residences which still survive in Vevay and other small towns along the Ohio River.

Three bays wide, the main bloc of the house contains one large chamber on each floor, opening off a hallway on the west side. The original covered stoop sheltering the front door was replaced some years ago by the present nondescript concrete porch with wrought-iron posts. The doorway itself, topped by a rectangular transom, is also of a much later date than the fabric of the house. From the left side of the entrance hall, a simple Federal-style stairway with slender newels and uncarved spindles, rises to a landing at the rear of the hall, thence in a short reverse flight to the second floor. The paneled rear doorway beneath the stairs, as well as the below-stairs closet, are obviously of the early nineteenth century.

To the right of the hallway lies the parlor, where the only vestiges of the original woodwork are the two built-in cupboards, with paneled doors, flanking the fireplace which is itself a heavy brick addition of the 1920's or 1930's. The rear part of the house has been even more extensively altered, with a frame addition built in the angle between the ell and the front portion, making the lower floor almost square in plan. A long dining-room extends across the back of the house, connected to the living room by a wide doorway of relatively recent vintage, and to the hallway by an original opening. A modern kitchen occupies the rest of the frame addition. The rear part of the brick ell, believed to have once contained the kitchen, now serves as a family room.

Upstairs, the master bedroom over the living room contains remnants of a chair rail concealed in the later cupboards at either side of the fireplace, framed by an austere Greek Revival-style mantelpiece. A small chamber at the end of the upstairs hall, above the front door, has been converted into a bath.

From the stair landing, a low doorway provides access to a half-story above the ell, with its sloping ceilings. Divided, it is now one large bedroom. A pair of nearly level square windows at the end of the room, plus another on the west side, light the chamber. According to George Eggleston's biography of his brother, Edward, this was the sleeping area for the sons of the family at one point.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**5. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1837

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education             | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering           | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry              | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention             | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape             | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture          | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                 |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Edward Eggleston was among the earliest of America's realistic novelists and perhaps the first writer to tap in a serious vein the literary potential of America's frontier experience. The western movement had spawned a society with its own distinct character, and, as Bret Harte exploited the romantic and picturesque aspects of Far Western life, Eggleston produced what one critic has called "something as realistic as Dutch painting, touching with love and care the homely details of living" as he knew them in the frontier Ohio Valley and Minnesota.<sup>1</sup> Of spotty quality in themselves, his works nonetheless began a tradition of realism in the treatment of native life which later flowered in the works of Garland, Dreiser, Cather, Sandburg and Lewis.<sup>2</sup>

During a childhood and youth in which his family moved frequently, the Vevay, Indiana, family home remained the single most important site associated with Edward Eggleston's formative years. Here Eggleston was born on December 10, 1837, and here he lived for approximately ten years at three different periods between 1837 and 1854. As a youth in Vevay from 1852 to 1843, Eggleston encountered one of the most influential forces of his life in the character and tutelage of Mrs. Julia L. Dumont, a local teacher who encouraged his literary inclinations. At the age of sixteen, Edward Eggleston left Vevay, but the town and the Ohio Valley countryside about it, the people, and the rude pioneer culture provided the material for Eggleston's best-known works, including "The Hoosier Schoolmaster" and "Roxy". The house left the Eggleston family during the mid-19th century, but Eggleston and his brother visited it for the last time in the spring of 1900, two years before the author died.

--Continued--



1. Wallace Stegner, quoted in Robert E. Spiller and others, eds., "Literary History of the United States" (New York: Macmillan Company, 1960), p. 870.

2. Ibid., p. 863.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Barnhart, Clarence L., ed. "The New Century Cyclopedia of Names." New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1954.  
 Eggleston, George Cary. "The First of the Hoosiers." Philadelphia: A.J. Drexel Biddle, 1903.  
 Randel, William P. "Edward Eggleston." New York: Twayne Publishers, 1963.  
 Spiller, Robert E., et al., eds. "Literary History of the United States." New York: The Macmillan Company, 1960, pp. 863, 865; 869-70.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		38	44	46
SE	° ' "	° ' "		85	04	11
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 74 1/2' x 142' 0.24 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



UTM  
16/667700  
4290110  
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. Max Rosenberger

ORGANIZATION: Switzerland Co. Historical Society DATE: 1/15/73

STREET AND NUMBER: 306 W. Main St.

CITY OR TOWN: Vevay STATE: Indiana CODE: 18

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: *Joseph Poland*

Title: Indiana State Liaison Officer  
Director, Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Date: 1/10-73

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

*Ernest A. Connelly*  
Associate Director  
Professional Services  
Date: OCT 15 1973

ATTEST:

*Grant H. ...*  
Keeper of The National Register  
Date: 10-9-73

## 7. DESCRIPTION (Cont.)

Edward & George Cary Eggleston Home

The house dates from the early 1830's, when Edward and George's parents purchased and completed it following their marriage. At the same time, Joseph Cary Eggleston, their father, constructed an adjacent brick law office which served, after his death, as a "bedroom and general quarters" for his sons, Edward and George Cary.

Originally the lot consisted of approximately one acre, planted largely in fruit trees and grape vines. Subdivision of the property has erased all trace of the orchards, arbors and dependencies, as well as the office structure.

While the Eggleston boys were still children, their parents moved to a farm inherited by his mother on the Ohio, five miles below Vevay. But at their father's death in 1846, the family returned to Vevay residence where they lived until about 1850. Mrs. Eggleston's re-marriage again took the family from Vevay for a time, but they returned again in 1852. Young Edward Eggleston then lived in the family home until his departure for Virginia in 1854. That same year, his mother moved to Madison and the Vevay house was subsequently sold.

After passing through various ownerships, the dwelling came into the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Dodd, who occupied it for many years, then sold it in the early 1960's to Gerald Forwood. At this time a number of interior alterations were made, including the addition of false paneling in the family room. The present owners have lived in the house since 1965 but have made no structural changes. The house is opened to the public each year during the annual wine festival.

Despite substantial modifications to the Eggleston house itself, Vevay still preserves something of the character portrayed by Edward Eggleston in his novels. Several other buildings associated to some degree with Edward, including the home of his mentor, Mrs. Dumont, still exist, and west of town on Highway 56 is the Eggleston family cemetery.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

### Biography

Edward Eggleston was born in Vevay, Indiana, in 1937, the son of an aristocratic Virginia lawyer who had emigrated to the Ohio River frontier. After his father's death in 1846, his mother married a Methodist minister and the family lived in several other Indiana towns before returning to Vevay, where he was encouraged in his writing by a sensitive local teacher. Eggleston received almost no formal education, although he read widely. Between 1854 and 1865, he led a chequered career, refusing to enter the University of Virginia because the state condoned slavery and finally becoming a Methodist circuit rider in Minnesota. In 1866, he moved to Evanston, Illinois, as editor of the "Little Corporal," a children's magazine, and the next year became the editor of the "National Sunday School Teacher." In 1870, he moved East to work on the New York "Independent."



Shortly afterward, he took over the faltering "Hearth and Home" and began the serialization of his novels, which revived the magazine and made him famous. Expressing the pietistic view that the novel--considered wicked by many of his contemporaries--should be instructive as well as entertaining, he faithfully recorded a fading frontier America. The boisterous flavor of his Ohio Valley childhood, coupled with his experience as a pioneer minister, provided grist for his writing. His most widely-known work, "The Hoosier Schoolmaster," appeared during 1871, "The End of the World," in 1872, and "The Mystery of Metropolisville" in 1873. During 1873-74, "Christian Union" serialized "The Circuit Rider"--possibly his best novel from a technical standpoint. Three more novels, "Roxy" (1878), "The Hoosier Schoolboy" (1883), and "The Graysons" (1888) further developed the theme of frontier life. During this period, Eggleston also published articles and short stories in various magazines.

His strict Methodist upbringing had faded with his growing sophistication, and from 1874 to 1879 he served as pastor of a Unitarian congregation in Brooklyn. In the latter year, however, he retired to devote himself fully to writing, and to expand from the field of fiction into social history. Eggleston believed that history should deal with everyday life as well as the merely political, and from the beginning had seen his fiction as a part of the effort to broaden the concerns of history. Moving to Lake George, New York, in 1881, he embarked upon his projected "History of Life in the United States," while supporting himself through further fictional writing. But Eggleston had completed only two volumes, "The Beginners of a Nation" (1896) and "The Transit of Civilization" (1901), when ill-health incapacitated him. A supporter of progressive movements throughout his life, and a pioneer in both American fictional and historical writing, Eggleston died on September 2, 1902, at his Lake George home.

George Cary Eggleston was born in Vevay on November 26, 1839, the second child of Joseph Cary and Mary Jane Craig Eggleston. George had much the same intellectual promise and was hardly less successful than his more famous brother, Edward.

In 1856, George and Joe, his younger brother, were sent to the Eggleston relatives in Virginia. They fell in love with plantation life, and stayed south. George inherited one of the old Amelia, Va., houses, studied at Richmond College, Virginia, and began the practice of law in that state, but abandoned it to enlist in the Confederate Army, in which he served throughout the Civil War. In 1874, he published "A Rebel's Recollections," based on his experiences in the Civil War.

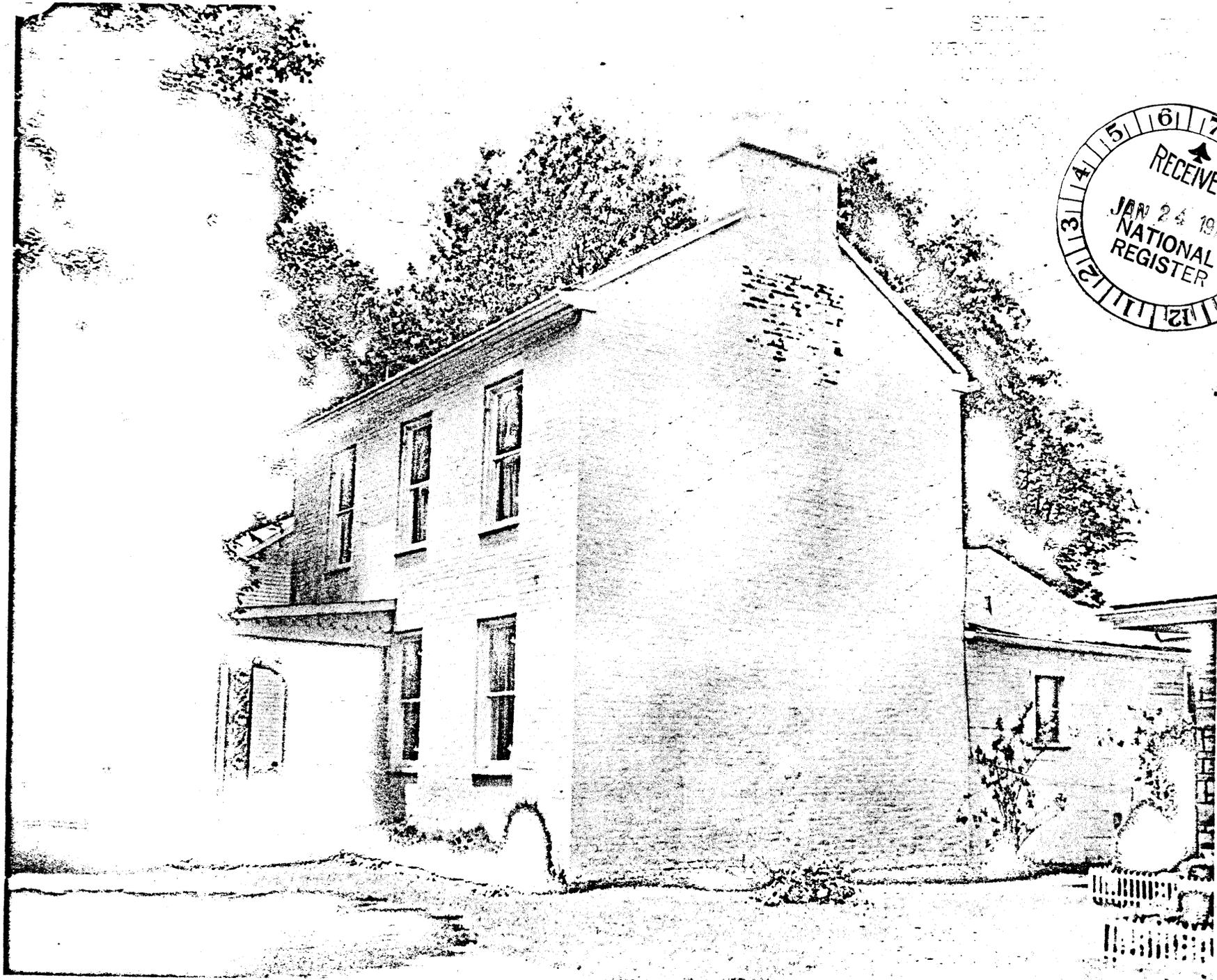
Later, in New York, he held editorial positions on various newspapers, among others the "New York Evening Post" and "New York World." His articles appeared in the "Atlantic Monthly" and "Galaxy" magazines, and he published many novels and other books, including "Southern Soldier Stories" (1898), "A daughter of the South" (1905), "Two Gentlemen of Virginia" (1908) and "The History of the Confederate War" (1910).

8. SIGNIFICANCE (3)

Edward and George Cary Eggleston Home

Also, in 1903, he published a memorial tribute to his brother, Edward, entitled "The First of the Hoosiers," one of the major biographical references used in preparing this form. In 1910, "Recollections of a Varied Life," a leisurely autobiography enlivened by anecdotes of his early life, was published. George died in New York on April 14, 1911.





Edward Eggleston Boyhood Home, Vevay, Indiana

NPS Photo 1971

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF KENTUCKY  
KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

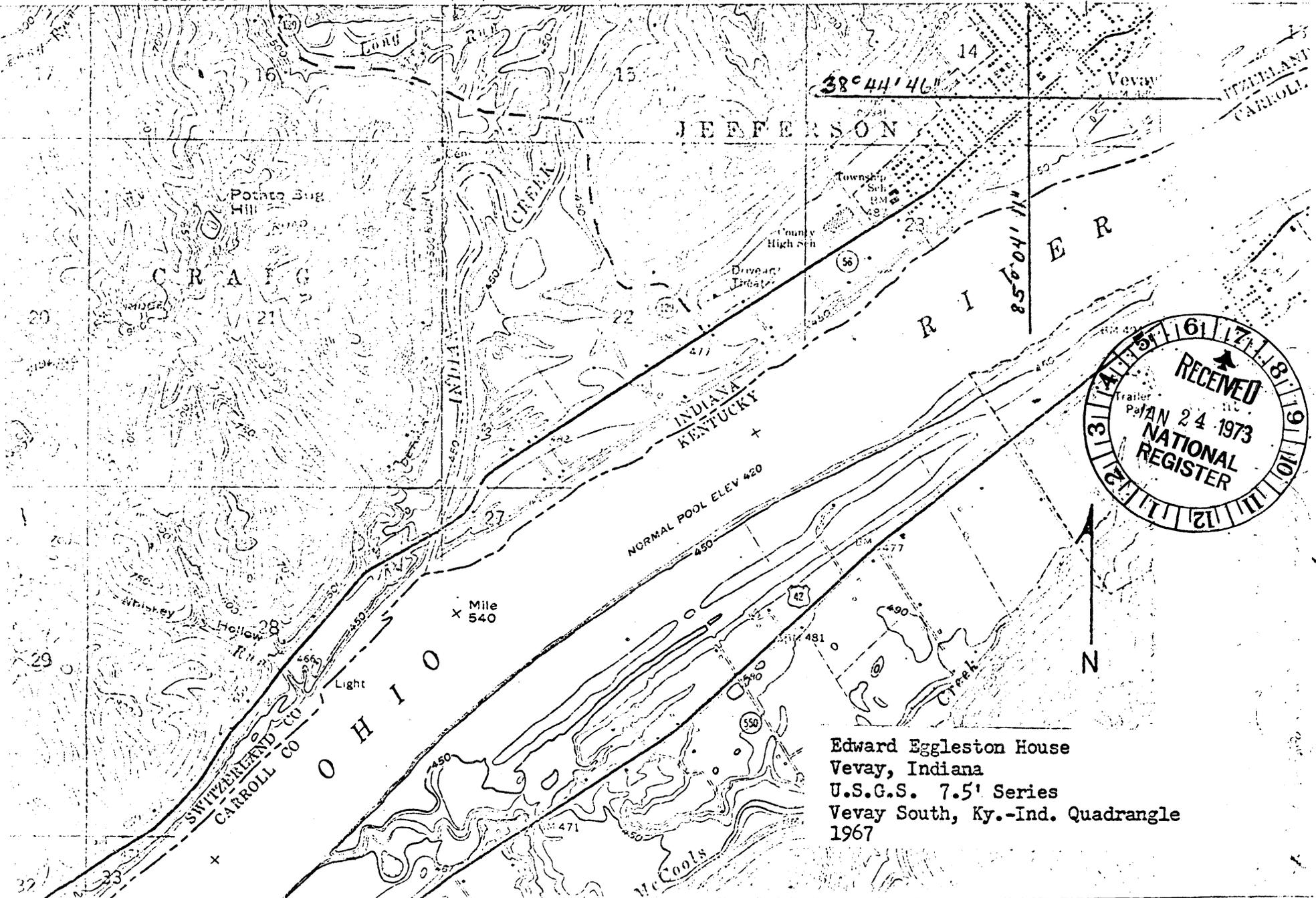
VERSAILLES 26 MI.  
MOOREFIELD 6 MI.

660 000 FEET (IND.)

660 000 FEET (IND.) R. 3 W. 5'

MT. STERLING 35 MI.

VEVAY



38° 44' 46"

85° 04' 11"



Edward Eggleston House  
Vevay, Indiana  
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series  
Vevay South, Ky.-Ind. Quadrangle  
1967