

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 22 1984  
date entered JUN 21 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Ludwig Epple House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 520 Granary Street N/A not for publication

city, town New Harmony N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Posey code 129

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Gerald E. and Margaret C. Dunigan

street & number 11 Park Ridge Drive

city, town Mt. Vernon N/A vicinity of state Indiana 47620

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Posey County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Mt. Vernon state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Epple House was built as a typical two story frame Harmonist residence, and appears on the 1824 map of Harmony, Indiana. It is located at 520 Granary Street. The house is placed near the corner property lines with its only door facing the side yard, typical of Harmonist siting.

Harmonist houses were built of either frame or brick construction, but all were standardized and mass-produced. Timbers were prepared and marked, and when a house was to be erected, the parts were taken to the site for assembly. Connected by mortise and tenon joints, the parts were anchored by driving kiln-dried hardwood square pegs into round holes in the poplar framing. With the passage of time and exposure to moisture in the atmosphere, the pegs would expand to assure a tight fit. Roof rafters were built as individual trusses, with the weight being carried to the outside walls. Thus, interior walls were not affected by snow, wind, or temperature changes.

The fireplaces were built to one side of the house, allowing the center beam to be continuous, but the chimney was corbelled so that it penetrated the roof at the ridge, eliminating the cricket and flashing problem. The center load of the house was carried on the intersection of the interior walls, rather than on the chimney. Interior walls were insulated with brick nogging, so that heat from a heated room would not be lost to a cold room. The ceilings of both the first floor and the attic were insulated with "Dutch biscuits," eighteen-inch boards that were wrapped in straw and mud. The ends of the wood were tapered to fit into grooves in the ceiling rafters. This also acted as a fire barrier.

Downstairs were located the entry hall, kitchen, and living room. The entry hall acted as a cold air lock, and also contained the ladder-type stairway with closets beneath. Next to this was the kitchen. The living room ran the width of the house, with a fireplace on the interior wall, flanked by doors into each of the other two rooms. There was one window in each of the outside walls. Bedrooms were on the second floor.

About 75 years ago a one-story, board-and-batten addition was made on the north facade of the Epple House. Two, late 19th century alterations, a door in the south facade and a central stairway, have been removed. The building is now divided into three apartments. A bathroom was added downstairs, and a door to the back room has been closed; however, the original Harmonist floor plan is intact and most of the original Harmonist fabric is in place.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

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<b>Specific dates</b>	c.1823	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Rappites
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### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Ludwig Epple House is significant as an especially good example of Harmonist construction. As the home of a Rappite cooperativist, it is a significant part of the State's early social history.

New Harmony is unique in the history of 19th-century American communal experiments because it was the scene of both religiously and secularly inspired Utopian communities. Harmonie, Indiana, was founded by followers of George Rapp in 1815, who had moved there from their first community in Harmonie, Pennsylvania. The Harmonists were religious refugees from Wurttemberg, Germany, dedicated to life in a harmonious, cooperative society. In 1825 they returned to Pennsylvania and sold the village to Robert Owen, who renamed it New Harmony and attempted to develop a communal society. By the end of 1826, however, that experiment had failed.

The frame Epple House was constructed during the Rappite period, using standardized, mass-produced parts for which the Harmonist structures are noted. The house demonstrates the skill and ingenuity of the Harmonists through its excellent design and solid construction.

The New Harmony Historic District was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1965. That District, however, includes only a portion of the Rappite buildings that still stand, and this house was not included in that designation.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Harmonist Construction, Don Blair. Indiana Historical Society Publications. Vo. 23, No. 2, Indianapolis, 1964.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre  
 Quadrangle name New Harmony, Indiana Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>16</u>	<u>418140</u>	<u>4220520</u>	B	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	D	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
E	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	F	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
G	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	H	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

This land is situated in Posey County, Indiana. The East Half of Lot Number Forty (40) in Maclures part of the Town of New Harmony, Indiana, from Government Entry.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gerald E. and Margaret C. Dunigan

organization N/A date March 31, 1982

street & number 11 Park Ridge Drive telephone 812/838-2345

city or town Mt. Vernon state Indiana 47620

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *J. M. [Signature]*

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 5-8-84

For NPS use only

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

*[Signature]* date 6/21/84  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration