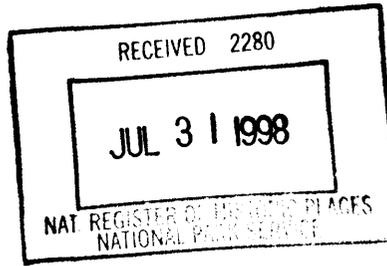


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**



1104

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Eaglesfield Place  
other names/site number Eaglesfield-Hunt Farm/ Western Eyrie Farm 021-063-00045

**2. Location**

street & number 4870 East US 40 N/A  not for publication  
city or town Brazil  vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county Clay code 021 zip code 47834

**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 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson A. Beal 8/25/98

Eaglesfield Place

Clay IN

Name of Property

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
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	2	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	2	Total

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling  
 AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Animal Facility  
 AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST Agricultural Outbuilding  
 DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling  
 AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTE Animal Facility  
 AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTE Agricultural Outbuilding  
 DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure  
 DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19th c.: Greek Revival  
 19th & 20th c. AMER.: Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
 walls WOOD: Weatherboard  
 roof ASPHALT  
 other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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.)

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE \_\_\_\_\_

AGRICULTURE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

c.1855-1933 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

c.1855 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Eaglesfield, William \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Eaglesfield Place  
Name of Property

Clay IN  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 16.75

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 498810 4377400  
Zone Easting Northing

3 16 498490 4377180  
Zone Easting Northing

2 16 498810 4377180

4 16 498480 4377360

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Glory-June Greiff  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 2-4-98  
street & number 1753 South Talbott telephone 317/637-6163  
city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46225

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

##### Maps

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

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

##### Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

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

name Norman and Rosemary Hunt  
street & number 4870 East US 40 telephone 812/448-1488  
city or town Brazil state IN zip code 47834

**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. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1 *Eaglesfield Place, Clay County, IN*

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**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

The Eaglesfield Place lies on a rise immediately west of the Clay-Putnam county line, on the south side of the old National Road, today's US40. Scarcely more than a dirt lane when the house was built, the present four-lane divided highway curves over the rolling terrain, much of which remains in farmland. The hamlet of Harmony lies about three miles to the east.

The property (see photo 1) includes a Greek Revival house built about 1855 and a small collection of agricultural outbuildings from the 1890s, dominated by a large Craftsman barn. There are two additional buildings that are presently non-contributing, but are so significant to the more recent history of the property during the 1950s and 1960s that they ought to be re-evaluated in about ten years.

The two-story gabled house (photos 1,2) retains its original clapboard siding, pilaster corner boards, and nearly all its original windows, most with six-over-six double-hung sashes, although the tall windows on the main north facade are nine-over-nine. Sidelights flank the entrance, and its entablature is supported by pilasters. A bull's-eye window lights the attic floor. The main facade overlooks the road and features a pediment with a raking cornice. Both gable ends on the south have returns. The rear (south) section of the house is slightly lower and butted against the main section, and likely was built within a decade or so after. A bay window has been added on the west side and a chimney is centered near the south end. Another chimney rises on the east side of the main section toward the south end. On the east side of the house off the rear section is a large screened porch topped with a balustrade, which probably dates to the 1870s. It was enclosed with screens sometime in the early part of the century. The porch incorporated a well with a pump that had been just outside the house. A porch was also added across the front of the house, but it was removed about 1950, restoring the facade to its original appearance. On the south end of the house was a shed porch that has been enclosed to create an additional room.

The interior of the house is largely intact, boasting an abundance of door surrounds with substantial entablatures and other trim of tulip poplar. The staircase is original but no longer suspended; a closet was built beneath the stairs to help support them. The original long entrance hall is also now divided by a supporting wall, its doorway is surrounded by original trim that once framed the second door into the double parlor on the east side. In the south half of the parlor is a brick fireplace. In the rear section (historically the kitchen) is another large fireplace; the chimney contains three flues.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
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Section number 7 Page 2 *Eaglesfield Place, Clay County, IN*

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Built around 1895, the large gabled transverse frame barn (photo 4) east of the house rises two-and-a-half stories and features broad eaves, knee braces, and exposed rafters. At the peak is a two-level cupola, the lower portion gabled, the upper topped by a bellcast pyramidal roof. Most of the windows have fixed sashes, either four-light or sixteen-light. The interior once had forty stalls, which have been removed, but otherwise it remains intact. An unusual feature is the tongue-and-groove oak flooring of the hayloft. Today the barn houses peacocks and is also used for storage.

Southwest of the barn is a small chickenhouse, a gabled frame structure with shiplap siding that appears to have been built around the same time as the barn but may be older. The structure functioned as a smokehouse in the 1950s and is currently used as a woodshed. A granary (corn crib) once stood nearly adjacent to it, but it had deteriorated badly and was torn down about 1950. Sources suggest there had been a few other outbuildings on the farmstead--but these were gone by the late 1940s.

What had been a small shed was moved a short distance to adjoin the south side of what may have been a summer kitchen (later converted to an office)--although the building (see photo 5) appears to have been constructed around the same time as the barn. A porch was added across the north facade by the present owners. The building is presently used for storage.

Just west of the house there had been a small one-story gabled cottage built in the 1870s. Its original location is marked by a fireplace foundation and rear step. The present owners moved the cottage a short distance west and north, closer to the highway, to house what began as a gift shop and later was enlarged into a restaurant in the 1950s. While the massing of the original gabled cottage is clearly visible, the building has been considerably altered with additions on all four sides, and its significance lies--or will lie--in its role as a restaurant and gift shop. Today it contains two apartments. West of the former restaurant (see photo 6) was a six-unit motel constructed in 1959, a gabled frame building sided with board-and-batten. The building's peak sports a cupola with a pyramidal roof. The motel's design was meant to evoke the mid-nineteenth century McKinley Inn that had recently been demolished a few miles to the east. Later a porch was added along the main facade. The motel was converted into three apartments in the late 1960s.

The farmstead is also notable for its stand of large maple trees sheltering the house. Their size suggests they could have been planted by William Eaglesfield, but perhaps more likely by Kate Eaglesfield Robbins around 1890.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3 *Eaglesfield Place, Clay County, IN*

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**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

In the 1996 survey of Clay County, the Eaglesfield Place was rated "outstanding" and the recently published Clay County Interim Report cited the house as "the county's finest [extant] example of the Greek Revival style." Indeed, of the remaining farm houses of the mid-nineteenth century, the Eaglesfield house is the only outstanding example of that style noted in the survey. The Craftsman barn is also a superb example of its type. The property is eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance. The Eaglesfield Place retains the visual flavor of a nineteenth century farmstead--at least that of a "gentleman farmer"--and is thus eligible under Criterion A in the area of agriculture.

Born in Ohio in 1815, William Eaglesfield was orphaned by the age of eight and came to Indianapolis to live with relatives. Before he was 21, he had settled in Putnamville and married the daughter of the town founder James Townsend, who owned an inn on the recently constructed National Road. (The National Road, begun in 1811, snaked from Cumberland, Maryland, to Vandalia, then the capital of Illinois, thus linking the East with the new states being formed out of the old Northwest Territory. Surveyors platted the road through Indiana in the late 1820s, and by 1835 it was essentially completed, albeit in a piecemeal fashion.)

Dealing in lumber and land, William and his bride Margaret remained in Putnam County until the early 1850s, when they moved across the county line to live in a log cabin on the present property. (The cabin had been built by Jacob Girton, who had homesteaded the land before selling a quarter section to Eaglesfield.) Within a few years work began on a substantial house in the Greek Revival style. There was still plenty of local timber available; the house is largely constructed of tulip poplar. William prospered as a lumber merchant with mills in several locations, but like many men of his era had his fingers in many pies. He continued to accumulate additional land, and at its largest the farm was 3360 acres. William became involved in local politics, serving as County Commissioner in the early 1860s. He had opened a general store on the National Road at the county line, then moved it a half mile north to the Terre Haute and Indianapolis Railroad, which quickly overshadowed the National Road's importance as a means of transportation. The store conducted railroad business and functioned as a post office known as Eaglesfield Station. William's son James later served as the last postmaster before the office was discontinued in 1902.

William and Margaret Eaglesfield had nine children: seven girls and two boys, who were the youngest of the brood. (Apparently the last child, Caleb, was the only one to be born in the present house.) Partly because of business interests and also because educational opportunities for his

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Section number 8 Page 4 *Eaglesfield Place, Clay County, IN*

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children were greater there, Eaglesfield moved his family to a house in Terre Haute in the 1860s, but kept the farm working under tenant managers and continued to use it as a summer home. At some point a two-story front porch overlooking the National Road and the railroad a half mile to the north was added, and another large porch was added to the east side, incorporating the well.

Jenny Lind Eaglesfield, the sixth daughter (born 1851) became mentally incapacitated as a young woman; whether from a head injury or a nervous breakdown while away at school in Massachusetts is unclear. Eaglesfield built a small cottage immediately southwest of the house in which she could be cared for, but she died tragically--possibly a suicide--in 1883. William died in 1888 and his third daughter, Kate Eaglesfield Robbins, may have taken over the management of the farm at this time. Her mother, who continued to live at the farm, died six years later. The farm property was divided among the children but remained intact; Kate and her brother James executed the will.

It was Kate who had the huge barn constructed in 1895, with forty stalls to house the horses she raised. Her husband was Alonzo Robbins, also a lumber merchant and a large shareholder in the Western Erie Railroad. That connection apparently led Kate to name the place Western Eyrie (an allusion to Eaglesfield) Farm.

Alonzo Robbins wanted to replace the wide poplar floor boards in the house with more fashionable oak tongue-and-groove flooring. From his mill in Indianapolis Alonzo had the flooring shipped to Eaglesfield Station, but Kate refused to let it be installed in the house. Rather than return it, she decided to use it in her new horse barn that was under construction. Kate was exceedingly soft-hearted where horses were concerned, and brought the retired horses from her husband's lumber mill to live out their days at the farm. After Kate died, her brother James bought the various parcels from his siblings or their heirs and the farm was intact once more under one owner. James T. Eaglesfield died in 1925, willing the farm to his son, Robert Davy Eaglesfield. Probably a combination of probate debts along with the Depression led to his being forced to sell the farm in 1933.

After eighty years in the same family, the farm was sold to George W. Shoemaker, who sold it five years later to Floy and Robert McCormick. The farm stood largely abandoned after Floy was widowed, but eventually she sold the house and outbuildings and just under seventeen acres of land fronting US40 to the present owners in 1949, when they were postwar newlyweds. Norman and Rosemary Hunt immediately removed the porch, which was in a state of collapse, thereby restoring the facade to its original appearance. The suspended staircase within had become unstable; to strengthen it, the Hunts built a closet beneath it and added a supporting wall across the foyer. They used the door surround that originally framed the southward entrance into the double parlor, which

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Section number 8 Page 5 *Eaglesfield Place, Clay County, IN*

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they removed. Otherwise, the original interior woodwork is intact and in place. The Hunts removed the deteriorating granary between the house and the chickenhouse, and moved a small shed to the rear of what may have been a summer kitchen to create a garage space.

When the Hunts assumed ownership, the property's location on the National Road, which had evolved into US40 in 1927, became significant. Initially as a sideline, the Hunts began selling cured hams, smoked in sassafras in the former chickenhouse, from the large side porch. As people asked for samples, they began to sell sandwiches and soon realized they needed more room. They moved the cottage that had housed Jenny Eaglesfield closer to the highway and opened a gift shop, and soon after a restaurant, with a kitchen addition in the rear. The business, called Hunt's Pleasant Acres, grew and the Hunts added wings to the east and west of the former house and eventually enclosed the front porch as well. In 1959 they built a six-unit motel to the west of the restaurant, designing it with a cupola in homage to the McKinley Inn, a mid-nineteenth century hostelry a few miles west that had been demolished in the 1950s. Within a few years they closed the restaurant and then the motel, and converted both buildings to apartments. These two buildings represent important examples of roadside architecture and are likely to be considered significant to the history of the Eaglesfield Place in a few years, as they are typical of small, family-run attractions that cropped up along major highways in the post-World War II heyday of such roads. The traffic on US40 that supported these businesses was severely diminished by the opening of Interstate 70 in the late 1960s.

As an example of Greek Revival architecture, the Eaglesfield house is unsurpassed in the county and the excellent Craftsman barn is a widely known local landmark. Beyond that, Eaglesfield Place is an attractive representation of a nineteenth century gentleman's (or more accurately in this case, a gentlewoman's) farm. Although the two westernmost buildings are not currently eligible for the National Register, they contribute a great deal to the continuing history--and the survival--of Eaglesfield Place and represent typical roadside commerce of the 1950s. It is hoped that these buildings will be re-evaluated when the motel becomes fifty years old. Taken as whole, Eaglesfield Place speaks volumes about life along the National Road during a span of over a hundred years.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 & 10 Page 6 *Eaglesfield Place, Clay County, IN*

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**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RESOURCES**

Abstract of Title to a part of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 24, Township 13 North, Range 6 West, prepared for Floy McCormick, 10 September 1949.

Bridgman, Dorothea Eaglesfield. Indiana Morning: Our Times. Unpublished memoir, 1950.

Conversations with Norman Hunt (owner of property 1949-present), October 1997-January 1998.

Gould, Sallie Eaglesfield. Transcript of talk given to Preservation Association of Clay County, 16 June 1996.

Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory: Clay County Interim Report. Indianapolis 1997.

Travis, William. A History of Clay County, Volume I. Chicago 1909.

**SECTION 10-GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Verbal Boundary Description

Legal description: Beginning at the southeast corner of Section 24, Township 13 North, Range 6 West; thence west along the south line of Section 24, Township 13 North, Range 6 West, 1041 feet to a point; thence north 0 degrees 30 minutes west (magnetic bearing), 595.6 feet to an intersection with the center line of U.S. Highway 40, 1062.5 feet to an intersection with the Clay-Putnam county line, which is the east line of Section 24, Township 13 North, Range 6 West; thence south along the east line of Section 24, Township 13 North, Range 6 West, 806.5 feet, to the place of beginning; containing 16.75 acres more or less.

Boundary Justification

Encompasses all the remaining historic resources of the Eaglesfield Place.