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 documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significant categories and subcategories from the instructions. 1. Name of Property Historic name: __Mont Clair Other names/site number: Natl. Reg. of Historic Places National Park Service Name of related multiple property listing: (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing N/A 2. Location Street & number: 3890 E Johnson Farm Rd County: Knox City or town: Vincennes State: IN Not For Publication: Vicinity: 3.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 $ot \succeq nomination
ot = request for determination of eligibility meets$ 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 \times meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national X local statewide Applicable National Register Criteria: XA X C 11.3.2016 Signature of certifying official/Title: Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets	does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title:	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Mont Clair ame of Property	Knox County, IN County and State
4. National Park Service Certification	
I hereby certify that this property is:	
entered in the National Register	
determined eligible for the National Register	
determined on eligible for the National Register	
removed from the National Register	
other (explain:)	
lor Edson A Boall Signature of the Keeper	12-27.16 Date of Action
5. Classification	
Ownership of Property	
(Check as many boxes as apply.)	
Private: x	
Public – Local	
Public – State	
Public – Federal	
Category of Property (Check only one box.)	
Building(s)	
District	
Site	
Structure	
Object	
Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count) Contributing Noncontributing	

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11	6	buildings
1		sites
2		structures
		objects
14	6	Total
Number of contributing resource	es previously listed in the Natio	onal Register <u>0</u>

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: processing

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling DOMESTIC: secondary structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Neoclassical

OTHER: Gable Front & Wing
OTHER: Transverse-Frame Barn

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: BRICK walls: STUCCO

BRICK

WOOD: Weatherboard

roof: <u>METAL: Copper</u> other: <u>METAL: Steel</u>

STONE: Limestone

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

Mont Clair is located about one mile southeast of Vincennes in Knox County, Indiana on the northeast side of IN S.R. 61 in Vincennes and Palmyra townships. The terrain is gently rolling farmland characteristic of southwestern Indiana. The 483-acre farm (site map 1) includes 14 contributing resources: the site, the original house c. 1806, a farm manager's house built in 1911, a carriage house, a duck house, a summer kitchen, a tool house, a chicken house, a smokehouse, a hay barn with gambrel roof, a lattice house/pump house/buttery, an old pump house, and two silos (site map 2). Six (6) noncontributing resources include an equipment barn built in 1975, a house built in 2008, a garage, an outhouse, a pump house built c. 1950, and a new barn completed in 2016. The main house, reached by a ¼ mile drive from S.R. 61 through a 60-acre maple grove, is well-preserved and maintained. The other contributing resources and the landscaping that have sustained Mont Clair since 1806 are not only well-preserved and in good

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condition, but they continue to represent the changes in agriculture and land use over the past two centuries.

Narrative Description

Mont Clair Farmstead, 1806. Contributing.

The site is considered a contributing resource due to its architectural, landscaping and agricultural features retained from the early 19th century through the mid-20th century. The property is bordered to the southwest by State Road 61 and to the northeast by Hickory Corner Road, with entrances from State Road 61 and Johnson Farm Road (overhead maps). From State Road 61, believed to be the historic entrance (photo 31), a long lane runs through a woods and past a pond (photo 26). The lane curves into a drive lined with French drains in front of the main house.

Greek Revival/Neoclassical House, 1806/1860/1911. Contributing. Photos 1-7, 24-25. The main house sits atop a ridge that is the high point on the property and is the most significant building on the farm (photo 1). The original part of the house was built in 1806 in the Greek Revival style (historic image 1). It was enlarged circa 1860 and later remodeled in 1911 in the Neoclassical style by John Burke Bayard (historic image 2, blueprints 1-3). The house is a two-story Neoclassical with a double-pile footprint and large two-story addition on the back. The house has front and side porticos, and porches with limestone balustrades. The walls are made of brick; most are covered in stucco. The bricks for the walls, foundation and fireplace were fired on the farm with clay dug from a brick kiln a few hundred yards from the house. The main house has a side gable roof with a gable front roof on the rear addition. All roofing and guttering are copper. The house has five chimneys in total. The house is in good condition and retains its historic character.

Landscaping. Photos 26-28, 31-33.

The landscape at Mont Clair has changed little over the past two centuries (site map 1, overhead maps). The main entrance from State Road 61 (photo 31) passes through mature tree groves on its way to the main house. This entrance is the original access to the property per Knox County Gravel Road Record 1, page 28. The lane passes over a small dam adjacent to a pond (photo 26) which was a source of ice at one time. Woodlots on the property include the 100-year old maple grove, as well as old walnut, pecan, and persimmon groves for consumption, a pine grove for lumber and a locust grove for fence and corner posts. Over 10,000 black walnut, black cherry, white oak, and yellow poplar trees have been planted in recent years. Remnants of an orchard and small vineyard remain, and many large flower beds are present. During the past century, the farm fields and crops have seen very few changes. The field boundaries have remained the same as they are divided by a large creek system feeding into Kelso Creek. An old concrete bridge over the creek has fallen in and fields are accessed now from the surrounding county roads established in the 1890s. The setting provides a feeling of the agrarian roots of southern Indiana. From Johnson Farm Road, an allee lined with trees leads to the main house from the south side of the property (photo 28).

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Exterior

The original 1806 house had a brick exterior with five bays and two-over-two windows with functional, exterior wooden shutters (historic image 1). A wide band of trim ran the length of the facade underneath the roof cornices. A wooden porch with square columns ran the length of the front facade; in the same style, a central, one-bay second story porch included a pediment with a semi-circular fanlight window. This porch dated to about 1860; it may have replaced an earlier porch. In 1860, the house was enlarged to include a two-story back wing with kitchen, pantry, servant sitting room and back porch on the first floor; quarters for maids were added on the second floor along with a sleeping porch.

To the rear of the house, the foundations of an ice house and sizable privy remain. Remnants of the brick kiln remain underground to the south of the house.

Southwest/Front Facade

The exterior of the house today reflects the changes made in the 1911 remodel. The front portion of the house is covered in stucco and has five bays facing the southwest, with four 2/2 symmetrically-placed wood windows in good condition on each floor (photo 1). The portico, added in 1911, is the main focus of the front façade. Resting on a stone deck that is raised several steps above grade, the wooden portico covers three bays of the façade and is supported by twostory-tall wood Corinthian columns. The columns are unfluted but detailed with appropriate Attic-style bases and academically-fashioned Corinthian capitals. The entablature is likewise fully realized in all moldings, with plain frieze capped by dentil and egg-and-dart moldings. The cornice is crafted with modillions and recessed panel soffit. The pediment end is detailed the same as the entablature, but is raked to follow the gable roofline. The pediment's stucco tympanum has a centered semi-elliptical fanlight. Pilasters matching the columns support the entablature where the house connects to the portico. Turned limestone balusters surround a low platform porch that wraps partway around the house from the northwest side past the front facade to the southeast side. The eaves are appointed with entablature including classical moldings and dentils (photo 2). The lower story windows on the front, west facade have narrow sills, but no lintels. The upper story windows, except for the central bay, have sills; the tops of the windows are encased by the entablature. The main entry door has side lights and an elliptical fanlight. The upper central bay has a door with a small semi-circular fanlight opening onto a small balcony with a scrolled metal balustrade.

Southeast Facade

The southeast facade has a gabled roof with the same decorative eaves and stucco as the front facade (photo 3). Two stories and an attic are evident from this facade. A one-story enclosed sun porch and a side entrance porch with a carriage portico are on the southeast side of the house. The sun porch is prominently featured toward the south on the first floor with decorative eaves, pilasters and columns in the same style as on the front façade. There is an entrance door with a transom window to the sun porch on the front/southwest facade and two 1/1 windows with a small pane on top and large pane on bottom. Two decorative pilasters frame the front facade of the sun porch. Nine 1/1 windows are divided into three bays with three windows each; four Corinthian engaged columns alternate and frame the windows. A low, limestone wall fills the area between the foundation and the base of the windows. The entablature on the sun porch roof

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is detailed the same as those on the main façade, but are sealed to the one-story height of this

The second floor shows columns and four 2/2 windows with narrow sills, as on the front facade. An upper-story attic window of the same type 2/2 is also present. Moving to the northeast of this facade, a one-story projecting car portico has four Corinthian columns with limestone bases; the decorative eaves continue. A door with sidelights and semi-circular fanlight enters the back hallway of the c. 1860 addition from underneath the car portico. Another smaller, simpler door enters the farm office. A narrow 2/2 window is present on this facade, just to the northeast of the portico. Continuing northeast, a porch was added in 1860 and later closed in c. 1950 with brick painted white. A 4/4 window and a set of three, contiguous 4/4 windows have decorative lintels with hooded segmental arches. The wooden eaves on this portion are simpler than those on the facade. A second-story porch with wooden balustrades and vernacular Doric columns exists on the second floor of the addition. A door with a transom leads to the sleeping porch from the second floor; three 2/2 windows are present on the second story walls of the porch. The porch leads to exterior attic access. The exterior walls on the second level show noticeable differences between the brick laid in 1806 and 1865.

Northeast Facade

Continuing toward the back of the house (photo 5), the bricked in porch has an exterior door on the first floor with a segmental, hooded limestone lintel with an arch. Part of the sleeping porch is visible from the northeast facade. The two-story 1860 addition is covered in stucco and has a gable that fronts the northeast facade. The eaves have simple entablature with plain frieze that is a simpler version of the front facade. Two 2/2 windows on the second floor have limestone sills; two smaller 2/2 windows on the first floor do not have sills. There are visible traces that the lower windows replaced larger windows at an unknown time. Exterior access to the basement via a bulkhead entry exists to the right of the exterior door. The back door exits to a large concrete pad which covers a large water cistern for manual pump access built of brick likely in 1860.

Northwest Façade

The entire northwest facade is two stories and covered in stucco (photos 4, 6). The decorative eaves continue from the main, front facade around the corner on the original (southern-most) part of the house with a side gable. The back portion has a simpler entablature like that of the northeast side. On the first floor, two small 2/2 windows with sills are present on this wall of the library in the front of the house. Continuing northeast, a bay of four 9/1 windows with sills, part of the 1911 Bayard remodel, are visible lighting the dining room. One 2/2 window still exists on the first floor, just northeast of the dining room bay of windows. On the very back of the first floor are three 1/1 windows, altered during a later kitchen remodel. Northeast to the 1860 addition, three more 2/2 windows with sills are present on the second story.

Interior

Much of the interior of the original 1806 house and the 1865 addition remain unchanged, and most of the changes made during the 1911 Bayard remodel remain today (see blueprints 1-2). Tongue-in-grove oak floors exist throughout the house except in the kitchen, pantry and sun room. The floors feature a narrow inlay that runs the entire perimeter of the central hallway.

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Hardwood crown molding, doorway borders and window trim, most of which have been painted white, are intact throughout the house. The walls are plaster, and covered with either wallpaper or painted canvas. Most of the wooden doors in the house are intact with the original hardware, and date from either 1806 or 1911. Radiators from 1911 throughout the house still function to heat the home today.

The home retains its central hallway and staircase (photo 7), and its original symmetrical footprint from 1806. The front, main entryway into the original part of the house has a door with architrave molding (see blueprint 3, photo 25). This pattern from the 1911 Bayard remodel is repeated in the woodwork throughout the first floor of the house. The front door is not centered and leads into the wide central hallway. The date of the ceiling light fixture in the central hallway is unknown, but the fixture is present in a 1928 photo of the house. The newel post is walnut or mahogany, and has an urn-like form. The balusters are quite delicate, three per tread, painted white and surround the newel post. The first two steps are wider and rounded on the side with the newel post. The handrail encircles the staircase and upper landing.

The house originally was double-pile with four rooms down and four rooms up and exterior chimneys. The largest room in the house is the living room on the southeast. Its current configuration was part of the 1911 Bayard remodel which removed the wall from the 1806 layout to turn the two rooms into one. Traces of the wall that was removed remain visible. Two sets of French doors, each with two doors with 12 lights, enter the living room from the central hallway. A large fireplace with glazed green brick and a black marble mantel (photo 24) serve as a focal point in the room. Part of the 1911 remodel, the fireplace has an internal chimney. Three sets of the same French doors lead to an enclosed sun room on the southeast.

The sun room features terrazzo floors and a bank of windows on the southeast facing the Carriage House. This room was added in 1911.

The room to the northwest of the central hallway is the library. This room retains its original footprint from 1806. Also retained is the location of the fireplace (photo 25) from 1806 with a Colonial Revival style featuring white brick. The mantel, made of wood and painted white, is flanked by two simple Doric columns and displays a decorative cornice. The fireplace surround and mantel may have been remodeled in 1911, but the size and flue are unchanged from 1806. Bayard added built-in bookshelves throughout the library in 1911, with the same decorative pattern used in the front door. The light fixture, believed to be part of the 1911 remodel, has an alabaster shade with a decorative design and bronze-colored chains. Two small windows with one pane each are symmetrical on either side of the fireplace.

The dining room also retains its original footprint from 1806, and features a bay of four windows on west wall. The Bayard design called for a porch to the west, but it was omitted, likely due to financial constraints. French doors lead into the dining room from the library and the central hall. A blue ceiling light fixture, not original, is from Germany. A swinging wood door leads northeast from the dining room to a small hallway which leads to a butler's pantry and then into the kitchen.

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On the right side of the hallway (to the south), a wood door with a large light in the upper half enters the pantry. Windows remain that were originally used to pass items in and out of house from the back porch. The kitchen cabinets from the 1911 remodel were salvaged and put to use in the pantry. Some cabinets have glass fronts and original hardware. Bead board covers part of a wall that originally led to the basement. The floors are made of maple harvested from the farm. They were laid in the recent past, with varying widths of boards. There is a 2 over 2 window dating to 1865.

Continuing to the northeast through the walkway is the kitchen, which was remodeled in 1955. This space was originally two rooms when added to the house in 1865, a kitchen and servants room. A wall was removed in the 1955 remodel to create a larger space for the current kitchen. The maple floors continue from the pantry. Built-in wooden benches line the west wall. The ceiling is coffered, with rustic wooden beams. A small, shallow brick fireplace with a simple wooden mantel remains in the eastern corner of the room. It originally had a cook stove in front of it and was within the servants' room.

A wall was added at an unknown time to make a small laundry room to the east of the kitchen. A louvered door leads into the laundry room from the kitchen. The laundry room leads through a door with storm door to an enclosed back porch on the east side of the house. The porch, originally wooden, was added in 1865. It was enclosed with brick around 1950. From the laundry room, a door with a transom leads to a narrow staircase to the second floor. The staircase walls are covered in wood bead board.

From the back porch, a door leads into the side hall providing access to a den, the central hallway, a bathroom and the side porch and porte cochere. The side hall features the same light fixture as in the library. A six-panel doorway leads to a small closet at the termination of the side hall. An entry door from the side porch with a fanlight and sidelights similar to the front, main entry lead into the other end of the side hall. A decorative door from the 1911 remodel also leads to the living room.

The den, on the east side of the side hall as one enters from the side porch, has a small fireplace with white brick and a simple wood mantel painted white. This room was part of the 1865 addition and served as the farm office until the 1960's, with business conducted via the side porch rather than the front entry to the house. The den has a cork ceiling. A small bathroom with a large pedestal sink lies off the side hall to the northwest of the den.

Interior, Second Floor

The upper landing mostly retains its original footprint, with four, wide, six-panel doors to individual rooms, two on each side of the landing. The two rooms on the east side are larger (wider) than those on the west (see blueprint 1). The six-panel doors are believed to be original to the 1806 house. A single door with a fanlight on the southwest leads to the small exterior balcony on the front facade. Two internal chimney flues are visible from the upper landing. Two doors with four panels and transoms at the northeast end of the landing lead to the 1865 addition.

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The wide, six-panel doors to the four original rooms have a decorative wood casing surrounding the frame. The door openings are shorter than downstairs. The tongue-in-groove oak floors continue upstairs. The landing has a border inlay like the central hallway downstairs.

The 1911 remodel added a bathroom and a closet between the two rooms on each side, resulting in one smaller room on each side. Each of the four rooms has two narrow doors with five panels, one leading to a closet and the other leading to a shared bathroom.

The bedroom on the southeast, known as the master bedroom, has three windows and the bedroom on the northeast has two windows. The bedroom on the southwest is larger and has a brick fireplace and wooden mantel. The original flue remains, although the fireplace surround has been updated. The three windows have interior handles. The bedroom with one window on the northwest is smaller and was at one time a room for sewing and a loom. The two bathrooms (east and west) have been remodeled and updated over time.

A central hallway leads to the rooms in the 1865 additions, built for the servants. An exterior door leads from the central hall to the sleeping porch and one leads from the servants' quarters. The upstairs addition appears to be slightly reconfigured from the 1911 Bayard remodel, from four rooms into two bedrooms and one bathroom. On the immediate right (southeast) of the hallway, a 2 over 2 window with a flared casing overlooks the sleeping porch. A narrow staircase leads downstairs to the laundry. The entry door with transom from the central hallway to the sleeping porch is on the east toward the back of the hallway and house. The sleeping porch has a bead board ceiling.

The first room to the northwest in the addition is now a bathroom updated with black and white tile, white fixtures and the original bathtub. The entry door has a transom and the room has one window. The Bayard floor plans show that this room was originally a store room.

The next room heading northwest has a door with a transom and one window. It is currently a bedroom. The bedroom at the very back or north of the house has four windows, one on the east overlooking the porch.

Summer Kitchen/Bunkhouse, pre-1860. Contributing. Photos 8-9.

To the rear (northeast) of the main house, stone paths lead to the summer kitchen, a brick building painted white with a brick foundation and a copper roof and gutters (photo 8). The summer kitchen has a side-gable and copper roof topped with the original bell. Wide, plain trim is present around the structure beneath the wide, exposed eaves with brackets. Two symmetrically-placed doors with protective overhangs covered in copper shingles enter the (southwest) front facade. A set of three 4/4 windows are centered on the front facade between the two entry doors. There is a tall, narrow 4/4 window on the far east side of the front facade, and a smaller, single, four-pane window on the west side. The hooded, segmental brick arches were used as the design for the main house rear porch top the windows and doors. This could date the building to 1865, although evidence shows it was built prior to 1860. The southeast facade has three small windows with segmental brick arches. On the main level, one window has two lights and the other has a wooden, hinged door. A small, rectangular upper window is present just

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under the roof gable. The rear (northeast) facade sits lower than the front, built into the base of a slight slope (photo 9). An asymmetrically placed entry door with a six-light window and simple, protective overhang leads downstairs to the lower level of the summer kitchen. Small, single pane rectangular windows are present on each side of the entry. To the right (northeast) is a 2/2 window with a brick segmental arch. On the main level, a bay of three 4/4 windows tops the entry. Three larger 4/4 windows exist, one to each side of the bay as well as one to the northeast which retains its segmental arch. To the very northeast is one small 2/2 window with the same arch. On the northwest facade, two symmetrical 4/4 windows with arches are present on the main level. A small, rectangular upper window with an arch exists just below the roof gable. On the lower level are two small windows with two horizontal lights and hooded arches. The interior has wood floors and shows vestiges of its use as a bunkhouse after the kitchen was moved into the main house in the 1860's.

Lattice House/Pump House/Buttery, pre-1860. Contributing Structure. Photo 8. To the southeast of the summer kitchen is a small structure covered with wooden lattice and topped with a copper roof and spire. This was thought to be a pump house to supply water for the summer kitchen/bunkhouse and a buttery due to the presence of a shallow, hand-dug well.

Carriage House/Stable/Dairy Barn, c. 1840/1902. Contributing. Photos 11-13.

To the southeast of the main house, the carriage house is a 50'x30' timber frame structure with a timber frame side-gable metal roof, a front-gable overhanging entryway, wide vertical poplar siding and a brick foundation (photo 11). There are no documents to date this structure, but it is believed to have been built c. 1840 with additions and alterations throughout the 19th century. The overhanging entryway protects the carriage entrance on the northwest side and faces the side portico of the main house. A pair of large sliding doors with three lights each serve as the front entry. There are three small, rectangular 2/2 windows on the first floor of the front facade. The second story portico has a double window with two 2/2 lights and a front gable. The windows are surrounded by simple wood trim painted green to match the roof. Atop the center of the carriage house is a cupola with vents on three sides, a double 2/2 window on the southeast and a weather vane. The southwest facade of the original structure has four small window openings with wood doors on the first floor and one larger window with six lights; a window with six lights is present on the top floor centered under the roof gable. The southeast facade has three centered rectangular windows with six lights each, two on the first floor and one on the second. On the southeast side (to the rear), a 60'x40' dairy barn extension with a concrete foundation was added in 1902 (photo 12). The dairy barn is a timber frame building with a raised central aisle and onestory bays with a dropped roof on either side. Similar to the older carriage house, the addition has vertical wood siding, six light windows, a green metal roof and small openings with hinged wood doors. The rear (southeast) facade has a large opening with a garage door and roof gable above. Painted hinges are visible on the upper portion. Inside (photo 13), the timbers are large and irregular showing rough circular saw marks. The floor joists of the hay storage loft are mostly 24' on center. Three horse stalls still exist on southwest side. Half sawn logs and full round logs harvested directly on the property serve as main vertical wall and roof supports. The hayloft flooring was removed in the 1950s.

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Duck House, c. 1860-1880. Contributing. Photo 10.

Just to the northwest of the carriage house is the duck house, a small outbuilding with horizontal wood siding, green trim, exposed eaves/rafters and a green metal shed roof sloping to the southwest. The building has two 2/2 windows on both the southwest and northeast sides; a replacement Craftsman style window is visible on the front (northwest) entry. Doors exist on the front facade and the northeast facade. It was restored in the 1980s due to rot and is now used as a dog house.

Tool House, c. 1880. Contributing. Photo 14.

New Pump House, c. 1950. Noncontributing. Photo 19.

To the southwest and across the drive from the carriage house is the tool house, a long, low building lined with wide poplar horizontal boards painted white. The single gable metal roof is asymmetric and steeply pitched to the northeast. There is a four-panel wood door on the front (northwest) facade and a rough door made of vertical wood boards on the southeast facade. There are two small windows on both the northeast and southwest facades. An additional window with 12 panes and a sliding wood door are present on the southwest facade. Built c. 1950, a small pump house with horizontal wood siding and a green metal roof sits behind the tool shed.

Old Pump House, c. 1930. Contributing. Photo 29.

An older pump house constructed of poured concrete is situated on the west side of the Hay Barn.

Gable Front & Wing House (Farm Manager's House), 1911. Contributing. Photos 20-22. To the south of the main house and the carriage barn complex, sits the farm manager's house and several outbuildings. According to family letters, the Farm Manager's House was built at the same time as the 1911 Neoclassical remodel of the main house, using excess materials from the project. It is a two-story, gable front-and-wing building with a main entry facing northeast and a brick foundation (photo 20). It is a timber frame house with horizontal redwood clapboard siding and a metal roof. All of the windows are double-hung replacements with wood frames and simple surrounds with an entablature lintel. A bedroom addition with a front gable was added to the northeast facade at an unknown date. It has a double window on the first story and a small window at the attic level. There is a small front porch with two entrance doors, each with a transom window and wooden storm door, one facing northeast and the other facing northwest. Two windows are present on the original portion of the structure on the northeast, one on each floor.

The southeast elevation has an exterior chimney and a side gable roof. There are two windows on the original portion of the house, one on the first floor and one on the second floor. A one-story addition with a side gable roof was built for a bathroom in the 1960's. It includes one window each on the north facade and the east facade.

The northwest facade has six windows total, three on each floor. A one-story porch on this facade was screened in c. 2002 (photo 21).

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The steep back sloping roof faces southwest, shielding the house from the hot south light of summer (photo 22). A small bump-out has a door on the southwest to serve as an entryway, along with two small windows facing northwest and southeast. There is an additional door, a double-hung window and a pair of smaller double-hung windows on this facade; all are located on the first floor. There are no windows on the second floor due to the steep pitch of the roof.

Inside the house, the first floor has a kitchen, large living space, laundry and bathroom; upstairs are two bedrooms and a bathroom. The original floors were pine and have been restored using wood from the farm along with the hardwood trim.

Smokehouse, c. 1900. Contributing. Chicken House, c. 1900. Contributing.

Outhouse, 2015. Noncontributing. Photo 23.

Just to the southwest of the farm manager's house are a smokehouse and a chicken house. Both have vertical wood siding, single gable ribbed metal roofs, hinged entry doors on the northeast made of vertical wood planks and concrete foundations. The chicken house has two windows, one with four lights and the other with six. Between the two buildings, an outhouse was constructed in 2015 on the foundation of the former outhouse. The new outhouse was rebuilt with vertical wood siding to match the original based on an old family photo.

Garage, c. 1950. Noncontributing. Photo 20.

Near the farm manager's house to the northeast is a two-car garage made covered in vertical wood siding and topped with a metal, single-gable roof. Small windows with wood trim similar to the dairy barn are present; two with six lights on the northeast, two with four lights on the southwest and one with four lights on the rear (southeast). The garage was built in the 1950's using materials salvaged from a small tenant house that was taken down.

Hay Barn, 1911. Contributing. Photos 16-18.

To the south of the homes and carriage house down a long tree-lined lane is a gambrel-roof hay barn built in 1911. It stands adjacent to a large cattle feed lot. The barn has an open hayloft created by the use of standardized lumber balloon framing (photo 18). The siding is vertical wood panels and the roof is metal with two vented cupolas topped with weather vanes. The main facade with the gable has a large sliding entry door, two small windows on the first level, two vents nearer the gable and a small, covered opening at the center top (photo 17). A large onestory section open to the exterior exists on the southeast adjacent to the feed lot (photo 16). The southwest side has no openings except two vents and the northeast side has five small windows with wood trim.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form Mont Clair Knox County, IN Name of Property County and State Silos, Circa 1920. Contributing. Photo 15. Two poured concrete silos c. 1920 remain next to the new barn. Equipment Barn, 1970. Noncontributing. Photo 15. To the northeast and across the lane from the hay barn is a newer noncontributing barn built in 1970 to store large, contemporary farm equipment. New Barn, 2016. Noncontributing. Photo 30. To the north of the main house, a new barn was constructed in 2016. The barn has been designed to complement the historic setting at the Ewing Farm. Covered in cedar shingles, the barn has a monitor roof and raised central aisle. Modern House, 2008. Noncontributing. To the northwest at the end of a long curving lane in the woods is a noncontributing modern house designed and built in 2008 by Lauren Ewing. The house was featured in Dwell magazine in November 2009. The house, a modern interpretation of the shotgun-style house, has corrugated metal siding and a metal roof. 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 Χ broad patterns of our history.

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.

ont Clair		Knox County, IN
ne of Property Criteria C	onsiderations	County and State
	in all the boxes that apply.)	
A.	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes	
В.	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 5	50 years
Period of 1808-194:	Significance	
Significat	nt Dates	
	nt Person (last name, first name) e only if Criterion B is marked above.)	
Cultural	Affiliation	
	/Builder (last name, first name) Dhn Burke	

David of Significance (justification)	
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Period of Significance (justification)

The main house at Mont Clair was built in the Greek Revival style in 1808. Significant alterations in 1911 by architect John Burke Bayard transformed the house into Neoclassical style. The majority of the other contributing structures on the property that contribute to its agricultural use were constructed between 1808 and 1945.

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.)

Mont Clair meets National Register criteria A and C in the themes of architecture and agriculture. The c. 1808 site, its well-preserved landscape, agricultural buildings and fields represent the pattern of settlement, agricultural development and land use which characterized southwestern Indiana in the early 19th century. Not only is the main house one of the earliest in Knox County, it remains one of the most prominent. Nathaniel Ewing, Mont Clair's founder, was an important figure in politics, government, banking and settlement leading up to and during the early years of Indiana's statehood. The farm passed to Nathaniel's grandson, William L. Ewing, Jr., in 1905, who had changes in mind for the main house. Remodeled in 1911 by local architect John Burke Bayard, the house is an outstanding example of Neoclassical Revival style. The Mont Clair farm remains in the Ewing family today with a large collection of well-preserved buildings representative of over two centuries of agriculture in Knox County.

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

History of Property (Ownership and Changes in Acreage)

It is difficult to determine how Nathaniel Ewing acquired what he considered to be his farm. He purchased and sold tracts of real estate in and around Vincennes before he was appointed by President Jefferson to permanently reside there and tend to the Land Office. What became known as Nathaniel Ewing's farm, which he named Mont Clair, was described as Survey 30 in township 3 North, Range 10 West consisting of 204 acres and three (3) 100-acre tracts from Surveys 31, 32, and 33 in township 3 North, Range 10 West. Located on State Highway 61 East of Vincennes, Indiana in Knox County¹, the lots of Mont Clair are oriented to the Wabash River. The farm is said to be located next to that of Francis Vigo, Ewing's neighbor and friend.² Over

¹ Early Knox County Tract Book, Township 3 North, Range 10 West

² Journal of the House of Delegates of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Doc #6, p 7

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time, the farm grew to approximately 2,000 acres and shrank to its current size of 483 acres over the ensuing 210 years.

Records of early land transfers in Vincennes were destroyed in a fire of the Recorder's office of Knox County in 1814 and the actual date of transfer is undeterminable. Research indicates that Ewing purchased 400 acres from Francis Vigo and his wife on December 17, 1800, consisting of Donation 29.3 His ownership is confirmed by the American State Papers in 1806 referring to Survey 29.4 The date of completion of his home on Survey 30 is impossible to determine with exactness. Some Ewing family oral tradition dates it to 1806; however, it does not appear on the early property tax rolls as an occupied home in 1806. The tax rolls for 1807 have been destroyed. The tax rolls, however, for 1808 show the home owned by Nathaniel Ewing and confirm its existence at or prior to 1808.⁵

After the First State Bank of Indiana failed in 1822, Nathaniel Ewing lost his interest in his farm in a sheriff's sale in 1831. It was purchased by his son, George W. Ewing, Vincennes, Indiana in 1831.⁶ Some seven years later following George Ewing's death, Nathaniel Ewing's farm descended to George's brother and Nathaniel's son, James Ewing⁷ who, as had George, allowed his mother and father. Ann and Nathaniel Ewing to live out their life on the farm in the old house Nathaniel had built in more prosperous times. Many years later, in 1866, after the death of his parents, Nathaniel and Ann, James Ewing, who was an avid farmer, conveyed his interest to his brother, William L. Ewing, who then owned one-half of the farm. William was the first Ewing child born at Mont Clair in 1809. He was sent from the farm as a boy to school and live in St. Louis in 1821 with his brother-in-law, Dr. William Carr Lane, while Lane was the first Mayor of St. Louis and before Lane became the Governor of the New Mexico Territories. William L. Ewing, through his schooling and Dr. Lane's training, later became a highly successful merchant in St. Louis in the grocery and commission merchant business, first in 1836 with the Berthold's and later in his own right. During the first half of the 1800s he used some of his considerable wealth to expand the farm to over 800 acres with subsequent purchases from Vigo, McCord and others. William L. Ewing died in 1873 and the farm descended to his children, one of whom was William L. Ewing, Jr. 10

William L. Ewing, Jr., was a successful merchant in his father's business who, later served as the Mayor of St. Louis from 1881 to 1885. William L. Ewing, Jr., purchased the farm fractional interests from his siblings in August 1883¹¹. At his death in 1905, the Mayor left the Ewing Farm to his wife, Mary F. Ewing and his son, William L. Ewing, Jr. 12 Mary F. Ewing acquired her

³ Deed: Vigo to Ewing – Knox County, Indiana Deed Book A, pages 12 and 13

⁴ American State Papers, Land Claims in the District of Vincennes, December 23, 1806, pages 267-269

⁵ Appraisement of houses for the year 1808, Palmyra Township Records

⁶ Knox County Deed Record F, Vol. 2, p.175, dtd June 27, 1831

⁷ Knox County Probate Court, Order Book "A", p. 283, dtd Oct. 5, 1938

⁸ Deed dtd Nov 14, 1866, recorded in Deed Book F, Volume 2, pages 182, 183)

⁹ Vigo to Ewing March 16, 1822, Knox County Recorder Book E, p. 224-225, McCord to Ewing, March 1, 1849, Knox County Recorder Book O, P. 433-434

¹⁰ Knox Circuit Court Will Record B, page 522

¹¹ Deed Record 3, p. 129

¹² Knox County Probate Order Book 16-449, dtd June 5, 1905

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descendants.

son's interest 13 and left the farm in trust for her grandchildren. 14 Valerie, Lauren, and Mark Ewing acquired the farm following the death of their father, Nathaniel D. Ewing in 1985. 15 Valerie and Lauren then helped Mark and his wife, Rebecca, obtain ownership of their interest in the Ewing farm. ¹⁶ Mark Ewing and his wife, Rebecca, saw that the Ewing farm was placed in trust for their children, Nathaniel McNichols Ewing and Mollie Rebecca Ewing, as well as their grandchildren in 2012.¹⁷ From the original purchase by Nathaniel Ewing at the start of the 1800s to the transfer to Nathaniel and Mollie Ewing in 2012, Mont Clair, the original Nathaniel Ewing farm, has been owned, farmed and cared for by eight generations of Nathaniel's direct

The nominated parcel is the largest contiguous property associated with the Ewing family and their farmstead. As explained on page 5 and as documented in the aerial photos, the physical organization of the farm retains sufficient integrity from the historic period to contribute to the significance of Mont Clair.

History of Property (Agriculture)

Agriculture has played a significant role in Knox County's history and economy since the early settlement days. Vincennes Township, the oldest township in the state, features excellent agricultural land. Farming has been an occupation in this area for the past two centuries. What began primarily as subsistence farming is now a large commercial activity.

The Ewing Farm is significant as an example of an historic family farm as well as a living, working farm changing over time to remain relevant. Its historic boundaries are somewhat clouded by the lack of pre-1814 real estate records in Knox County, but it is clear that Nathaniel Ewing owned and operated a 504 contiguous acre farm which he called Mont Clair, considering it his home and a special place separate from the other real estate holdings which he bought and sold from time to time. The farm has grown and shrunk in size over the years, reflecting the prosperity or lack thereof of his descendants, as well as changes to accommodate roads around and through the farm over time. Today the farm consists of 483 contiguous acres which have been farmed since the early 1800s by the Ewing family and which served as a home place for Nathaniel and his descendants during the last two centuries.

Nathaniel was very interested in operating, improving and maintaining the farm. His children were also interested and his son, William Lane Ewing, expanded it as did his son, William Laclede Ewing. Its layout is similar today based on the early surveys of the Vincennes Common and Township 3 North, Range 10 West 18.

¹³ Knox County Deed Record 68, p. 410, dtd March 31, 1919

¹⁴ Knox County Will Record 3, Page 46, 22 Jan., 1946

¹⁵ Knox County Deed Record 224, p. 508, dtd. Nov. 7, 1985, Instrument 3403, recorded May 12, 2006, Instrument 9525 recorded Deed Book 281, p. 181, December 18, 2001

¹⁶ Knox County Deed Book 264, p. 306, April 15, 1989 and Knox County Deed Book 225, p. 22, Jan. 16, 1986

¹⁷ Knox County Deeds #2012R03757, recorded 7/24/12 and Knox County Deeds #2012R04880 recorded 9/4/2012

¹⁸ Robert Buntin's survey from 1807

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Correspondence of Nathaniel Ewing with his descendants, who had moved to St. Louis, is filled with stories about the farm, referring at various times to its products which were shipped down the Wabash River to the Ohio River including corn, apples, flour, white cherries, pork, whiskey, tobacco, wool, and beef. Additionally, weather, yields, and produce sales are discussed. ¹⁹ The farm has a continuous history of the production of grains and meat products; other products have disappeared over time. Early correspondence with the Harmony Society indicates that Nathaniel Ewing, as well as helping them acquire land, financing, and banking and news from Vincennes, was much interested in the farming expertise of the Harmony Society members. His letters to George Rapp make arrangements to purchase the highest quality Merino sheep from Frederick Rapp.²⁰ He also served as a go-between for a company from New York and Philadelphia forming a large sheep farming operation through their agent. In 1817, Ewing contacted Frederick Rapp as he was about to depart to Philadelphia to find a German family to take charge of his farm and sheep. He requested experience in cultivation of grapes (presumably for wine) as well as general farming skills.²¹ In 1819, he corresponds about wool sent to the Harmony Society to be converted into blankets. 22 Family letters are replete with stories of spinning wool for clothing to be worn in Vincennes and sent to family members in St. Louis, and the making of linsey, red flannel, and stocking varn.²³

Subsistence farming dominated agriculture in Knox County in the first half of the 19th century as early settlers moved in. Very few houses and farm buildings remain from this period. Mont Clair survives as evidence of this early agricultural era.

Over the next two generations, the farm was engineered to be self-sustaining; mule, dairy, sheep, wagon, hay, and carriage barns were constructed. Groves of nut trees, pecan and walnut in the early years, along with persimmons for the sweet tooth, and pecan, black walnut, English walnut, and filberts in more recent years, have been planted. An approximate 60-acre grove of maple trees was planted in the mid to late 1800s and the Ewing farm commercially produced maple syrup into the mid-1900s.

The smokehouse, chicken house, duck house, and farmhand bunkhouse/summer kitchen, which are still extant, show how early farms strove to raise and provide for themselves over time. The farm produced its own chickens and eggs, and smoked and preserved its own meat. When the kitchen was moved inside the main house in 1860, the summer kitchen became a bunkhouse. The large school bell was used to call the farm hands to dinner. During the 1950's, the back lower story was used as a maple sugar house. The summer kitchen was transformed into an art studio in the 1960's, and currently serves as an office.

¹⁹ Nathaniel Ewing to Dr. William Carr Lane posted at Vincennes January 22, 1822, Nov. 20, 1835, and March 20, 1825 and Sara Law to Mary Lane posted at Vincennes May 6, 1822, all maintained by the Missouri Historical

²⁰ Letter from Nathaniel Ewing to George Rapp posted Vincennes March 8, 1815

²¹ Letter from Nathaniel Ewing to Frederick Rapp posted Vincennes April 28, 1817

²² Letter from Nathaniel Ewing to John L. Baker posted at Vincennes March 27, 1818

²³ Ann Ewing to daughter, Mary Lane, Missouri Historical Society, Oct. 12, 1826 and Oct. 12, 1822

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It is believed the old well house near the main house served as a buttery. The sizeable foundation of the icehouse near the main house was used in early days to keep dairy and meat products chilled into the summer. When the old pond was rehabilitated in the early 1950s, an ice fork used to break the ice blocks from the pond was found in the sediment. The ice fork is maintained as one of the early tools evidencing the self-sufficiency of the farm.

With advances in transportation and industry in the late 19th century, farms in Knox County became more prosperous and grew in size over the next several decades. The number of farm buildings increased, and farm houses became grander. A larger variety of crops was produced. Agriculture moved from subsistence farming to a commercial business. This was evident at Mont Clair with a number of new buildings in the early 20th century, and the remodeling of the main house.

Many farms from this era dot the rural landscape of Knox County. Examples of farms that prospered during the second half of the 19th century include the Jacob Klein Farm c. 1881 in Vincennes Township, the Andrew Nicholson Farm c. 1863 in Steen Township, and the William Henry Root Farm c. 1860 in Palmyra Township. The Plass Farm c. 1916 in Johnson Township is an example of continued agricultural expansion into the early 20th century. These farms retain the homes and many outbuildings from this era. The buildings at the Andrew Nicholson Farm have been well-preserved, but the other farms have deteriorated over time.

This prosperity was seen at Mont Clair during this era with the addition of several farm buildings, including the farm manager's house and the hay barn. Corn and livestock became the primary agricultural products in Knox County.

The early carriage house at Mont Clair, located near the main house, retains the original stalls and a buckboard-type carriage for transportation of the farm owners to town. In 1902, a dairy wing was built onto the carriage barn to supply the farm with dairy products. The raised central aisle structure is associated with more advanced and larger scale dairy operations at the turn of the century. The raised roof made hay storage above possible and increased ventilation and air circulation. Animals were fed, housed and milked below.

The three tenant houses are clear evidence of the farm as a place where people lived, worked, slept, and ate together as a part of the common enterprise. One remains, and according to family notes, the Farm Manager's house was built at the same time as the Neoclassical renovation of the main house using excess materials. Originally, it was a two-story I-house with two rooms on each floor.

The large hay barn, built in 1911 and still maintained on the farm, speaks of a time when the farm was worked by mules. Straw and hay were produced in large quantities for the feeding and bedding of cattle. Many gambrel-roof barns were built during this time for increased hay and straw storage, made possible with the increase in crop production and increase market for animal products. The gambrel roof created a wider truss-free hayloft that could feed and bed more livestock housed directly below. A grinding mill for grain has been removed but metal guides for the grinder belt remain.

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Beef and hogs were produced on large scales during the start of the confined feeding trend of the 1960s. A large cattle feed lot, automated feed bunkers, two 60-foot storage silos attached to a grain shed, manure handling pits, and a grain leg distribution system were added in the 1960s. These structures were demolished in 2015 due to storm damage and lack of use. A man-made livestock pond was built in 1960s by Nathaniel D. Ewing on the southwest side of the property. Around 1970, a man-made pig pond was dug by the farm tenants to the northwest of the original entrance lane.

Timothy and milo have been produced in the past at Mont Clair, but today's crops center on corn, soybeans and wheat, which are the staple of today's cash crops. Livestock ceased to be raised at Mont Clair around 1975. The trend away from raising livestock in Knox County has continued into the 21st century.

During the past few decades, rapid advances in technology and manufacturing have resulted in increased crop production, larger farms and larger equipment. This has created a need for larger outbuildings, along with a move away from traditional construction techniques to prefabricated structures. Many of the farm buildings in Knox County dating prior to 1950 have suffered from demolition and neglect as they have become less useful to modern farms.

Over the years, Mont Clair has been improved and made a fine example of farm preservation and conservation efforts achieving a Tier 3 (the highest) USDA rating in the Conservation Reserve Program with soil and erosion programs such as terracing, tiling, filter strips, wild life habitat preservation, and conservation tillage and planting employed throughout the farm. As in its founding years, the Ewing farm continues to experiment with new crops and new approaches to make its future a sustainable one. Recently, an experimental crop of truffles was planted and commercial production is a hoped for result in the near future.

Woodlots on the property include the 100-year old maple grove, as well as old walnut, pecan, and persimmon groves. Mark and Becca have planted over 10,000 black walnut, black cherry, white oak, and yellow poplar trees. Remnants of an orchard and small vineyard remain, and many large flower beds are present.

Agriculture has been closely tied to Indiana's heritage and continues to be a vital part of the economy. One of the earliest farms in Knox County, Mont Clair remains a fine example of this tradition with intact farm buildings, landscaping and field patterns that represent a time span from 1806 to the present.

Architectural Significance

Architecturally, Mont Clair is significant as a well-preserved example of an historic farmstead representing the vernacular tradition in its agricultural structures and of the Greek Revival/Neoclassical styles displayed in the main house. Built between 1806 and 1808, the main house is among the oldest and most prominent in the county. The only known home built in a

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"high style" to predate Mont Clair is Grouseland, home of William Henry Harrison built in 1803-1804 in the Federal style.

Architect John Burke Bayard remodeled the main house at Mont Clair in 1911 in the Neoclassical style. Bayard worked in Vincennes during the early twentieth century, and his family was steeped in local history as well. He descended from a retired Napoleonic soldier who had settled in Vincennes in 1820. John B. Bayard earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University in 1897, but turned to architecture instead. His architectural designs include the First National Bank, Pantheon Theater, Gibault School, Vincennes Public Library and LaSalle School. Bayard also designed the Neo-Classical Revival county courthouses in Sullivan (1928, NR 2008) and Vermillion Counties (1925, NR 2007).

The Neoclassical style of architecture emerged in the early 20th century in the United States and remained popular into the 1920s. The style stresses classical symmetry and ornamentation, and historically accurate interpretations of earlier architectural styles. Neoclassical buildings feature porticos with classical columns, pediments, and dentil cornices. They have a symmetrical façade with a center door and balanced windows. Balustrades and side porches are sometimes included.

The Neoclassical style is primarily found in public and commercial buildings in Knox County, although residential examples do exist. Many outstanding examples of the Neoclassical style were built in this era in downtown Vincennes. The First National Bank building on Main Street, designed by John Burke Bayard c. 1913 has classical columns and pediment. The First Baptist Church c. 1915 on Broadway Street and the United States Post Office on Busseron Street c. 1907 are both outstanding examples. The George Rogers Clark Memorial, dedicated in 1932, is also designed in the Neoclassical style.

The H.E. Peck-Joseph L. Bayard House, located on Sixth Street near downtown Vincennes, is a residential example of the style. The house was constructed in the Italianate style c. 1861. Like Mont Clair, it was remodeled c. 1910 in the Neoclassical style. Other similar Neo-Classical/Colonial Revival houses in Vincennes include the O'Donnell House, 313 Church Street (1907) and the Oliphant House, 422 North 4th Street (1905). Both feature large porticoes. Shadowwood, a 1917 Colonial Revival estate house designed by J.W. Gaddis for Colonel Eugene Wharf, is one of the closest comparing properties to Mont Clair. It has the monumental style and spacious setting of Mont Clair, but was never a working farm, and was not a remodeled house. Shadowwood (NR 2001) stands not far from Mont Clair on Wheatland Road.

The interior and exterior of the main house at Mont Clair remain nearly unchanged since the 1911 remodel, including the front facade, portico, columns, built-ins, a handsome fireplace and the sun porch with terrazzo floors. The family retains the original blueprints (see blueprints).

The farm manager's house is a good example of vernacular architecture at the turn of the twentieth century. The I-house is common in Indiana. Additions to the house have been made over the years, but it has been well-maintained and demonstrates a typical farm house in the area. The extant chicken house and smokehouse are little changed and the close proximity to the house show the use of ancillary buildings to support the farm in their original historic context.

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The barns, silos and outbuildings at Mont Clair are outstanding examples of agricultural buildings and structures associated with historic farmsteads. Modernization in agriculture has made these structures increasingly scarce. The carriage house may be the only of its kind remaining in Knox County. The gambrel-roof barn is well-maintained and a good example of its era.

Summary

The history of Mont Clair illuminates the evolution of the state's agrarian economy. Mont Clair's founder, Nathaniel Ewing, oversaw the early settlement of the area through his position with the Land Office. The homestead he built, Mont Clair, is an outstanding example of both Neoclassical architecture and a historic farmstead.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

Nathaniel Ewing

Born in 1772 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Nathaniel Ewing was orphaned at 12 years old. Sent west to live with his mother's relatives, Nathaniel was raised by them in Western Pennsylvania. At the time, Virginians and New Englanders had started to move west on the Ohio River. Nathaniel Ewing, by living with relatives who were traders, gained flatboat piloting skills in Uniontown. He traveled often down the Monongahela River to the Ohio River heading west to the confluence with the Wabash River and then on to Vincennes to work, trade, and live. He first came to Vincennes in 1798 at the age of 26, piloting a pirogue (dugout canoe) loaded with salt, furs, and apples. Because of his frontier experience, knowledge of natives, ability to speak French, and friendship with John Badollet (a Columbia University graduate and friend of Albert Gallatin, United States Secretary of Treasury), Nathaniel was appointed by Thomas Jefferson in 1804 to the position of Receiver of Public Monies in the newly opened Land Office at Vincennes, then the seat of government of the Indiana Territory. At that time, Nathaniel Ewing moved from Pennsylvania to Vincennes permanently.

The assigned duties of Nathaniel and Badollet were first to clear the ancient titles to farm plots and city lots granted by the early Military Commandants and Territorial Governors, to verify those entitled to the United States Grants, and to accept or reject claims made for public lands in the District of Vincennes. They were then charged with conducting the sale of public lands for the United States. The land offices were among the most lucrative jobs offered to ambitious men of the time, of which Ewing was one.

At the time of his appointment, Ewing, Badollet, and Territorial Governor, William Henry Harrison, were the only three officials on the United States payroll in the entire Indiana Territory, making them significant figures. They established and developed an active bureaucracy through which they hired clerks, deputy surveyors, chain carriers, ax men, cooks, and hunters and gave irregular employment to sheriffs and printers. Nathaniel Ewing held

²⁴ History of Old Vincennes by George Green, p. 323

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prominent positions, including serving as a member of the first Board of Trustees of the College of Vincennes, established as the first college in Indiana in 1806 (now Vincennes University). In 1820, Nathaniel Ewing was named Presidential elector by the Indiana General Assembly, voting for James Monroe.

Both Ewing and Badollet were seen to be linked with President Jefferson and his political views through their close workings with their mentor, Secretary of State Gallatin. Although they were originally allied with William Henry Harrison, then Governor of the Indiana Territory, animosity developed with Governor Harrison, who later became the 9th President of the United States.

Harrison, who came from Virginia where his family was a part of slave-based plantation society, was a slave owner in Vincennes, and a pro-slave activist. Badollet and Ewing were abolitionists. They publicized anti-slavery issues and were active in political efforts to thwart Harrison's efforts to legitimize slavery and indentured servitude in the Indiana Territory. Their opposition heightened anti-Harrison forces, turning Governor Harrison and his political machine against Badollet and Ewing. 25 With time, Ewing and Badollet realized that Governor Harrison would not only not enforce Article Six of the Northwest Ordinance (prohibiting slavery) but that he would go to any length to overturn the slavery and indentured servant prohibitions contained in the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. They became great political adversaries, with each side attacking the other in the newspapers, courts, Territorial Legislature, and in the exercise of their influence in lobbying President Jefferson.

Harrison's efforts to remove them from their positions²⁶ failed and Indiana came to the Union in 1816 with a State Constitution which reiterated the slavery and indentured servitude prohibition language contained in the Northwest Ordinance. Ewing and Badollet were instrumental in defeating Harrison's efforts to make Indiana a slave state. At the time, Nathaniel Ewing was a member of the Indiana Territorial Legislature. (History of Old Vincennes and Knox County Vol 1, p.323, George in Greene).

Ewing's position as a United Stated Government Commissioner, along with his early travels to Vincennes, gave him political stature and frequent contact with Native Americans and settlers. The settlers were mostly farmers and flocked in increasing numbers to this important gateway to the west. After years of witnessing underhanded purchases of vast tracts of their native lands, Ewing began to criticize Harrison's heavy-handed Indian policies, scare tactics and military campaigns. Ewing saw the Indians as peaceful Native Americans and the Great Chief Tecumseh who tried to coordinate and unite the many tribes as a leader of his people. Ewing objected to Harrison's tactics and his treatment of the native population to Washington as the hostility and counter charges between Ewing and Harrison brewed.²⁷

Ewing, however, was unable to help the Native Americans, who were brought to war and defeated. Harrison ultimately rode his military victories to the Presidency of the United States in

²⁵ Bury Me in a Free Land, The Abolitionist Movement in Indiana, 1816-1865, Badollet to Gallatin, 3-27-1809

²⁶ Harrison to Gallatin, August 29, 1809, William Henry Harrison Papers, Reel 3, p.p. 474-477

²⁷ Ewing to Gallatin, June 26, 1810

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1840. Ewing wrote to Gallatin that Harrison was wrong about Prophetstown, a village that had become the latest victim of Harrison's terror and corruption. Ewing explained that the Prophet and his people had no intention to meddle with the whites and that it was Harrison who intended to make war upon them. ²⁸ Ewing saw Harrison's portrayal of the Indians as designed to create a climate of fear making Harrison seem essential for protection at a time when the anti-Harrison forces were trying to replace him as Governor. Harrison responded saying Ewing and Badollet should be removed from their offices²⁹ and he later initiated the Battle of Tippecanoe in November 1811 and destroyed Prophetstown.

Because of the need to finance purchases from the Land Office, the first banker in Vincennes was Nathaniel Ewing. He petitioned the Territorial Legislature to charter a Vincennes bank. This was granted to him, funding the Bank of Vincennes on the 10th day of September, 1814. In March of 1817, after Indiana became a state, the Bank of Vincennes accepted the offer from the Indiana General Assembly in its initial legislative session to become the parent unit of a state bank. The Bank of Vincennes was then succeeded by the First State Bank which was associated with the new State's political and economic leaders who became political appointees of its board. Ewing was asked by the General Assembly to serve as its President. By the start of the 1820s, the First State Bank was distressed in its financial condition. The inexperience of its Directors, the financial collapse of the nation's currency system in the Depression of 1819, and the ensuring dramatic slump in prices of agricultural products all contributed to the bank's financial issues. The bank's Directors invested in a steam mill in Vincennes, which suffered a disastrous fire in 1821. Amid charges of mismanagement, self-interest, and over-extension, the charter was forfeited in 1822 and the bank's holdings seized for its creditors.³⁰

After the First State Bank of Indiana failed in 1822, Nathaniel Ewing lost his farm in a Sheriff's Sale in 1831. It was purchased by his son, George W. Ewing, Vincennes, Indiana in 1831. Until his passing in 1846, Nathaniel Ewing was able to live out his life with his wife Ann on the farm in the house he had built in more prosperous times.

Settlement and Agriculture in Southwestern Indiana

The historical development of Southwestern Indiana is closely linked with trade, agriculture and settlement. The French founded Vincennes, a fort on the Wabash River, as early as 1732. The fort grew into a profitable fur trading center and attracted settlers, including Nathaniel Ewing in 1798. Nathaniel made his living piloting flatboats and trading goods including furs. The river was an important mode of transportation.

The creation of the Northwest Territory in 1787 established territorial government and provisions for the organizations of states as settlers moved into the area. In 1800, the Indiana Territory was established, with William Henry Harrison as governor, and the capital located in Vincennes.

²⁸ Ewing to Gallatin, June 26, 1810

²⁹ Badollet to Gallatin, Sept. 25, 1810

³⁰ Indiana 1816-1850, *The Pioneer Era*, Donald F. Carmony (1998), p. 23-24

³¹ Knox County Deed Record F, Vol. 2, p.175, dtd June 27, 1831

Mont Clair
Name of Property

Knox County, IN
County and State

Harrison built Grouseland in the Federal style in 1803-4 and would go on to become the ninth President of the United States.

The Land Ordinance Act of 1785 provided guidelines for the organized transfer of land in the Northwest Territories. In 1804, Nathaniel Ewing moved to Vincennes to take the position of Receiver of Public Monies in the newly opened Land Office in Vincennes. This enabled settlers moving into the area to purchase parcels of land. With land prime for farming, much of the earliest agricultural activity in the Indiana Territory took place in Knox County, primarily at the subsistence level. During this time, Nathaniel Ewing acquired over 500 acres of land and built his home Mont Clair in 1806 in the Greek Revival style.

The Bank of Vincennes, established by Nathaniel Ewing, opened in 1814 and was the first bank in the Indiana Territory. This enabled settlers to purchase land. Vincennes, primarily an agricultural community, saw much development during this era, with the first newspaper founded in 1804 and Vincennes University in 1806.

On the political front during this time, opposition to slavery began to organize in Indiana. William Henry Harrison, a former slaveholder, supported slavery and sought to legalize it in the Indiana Territory. In 1809, abolitionists including Nathaniel Ewing, took control of the territorial legislature and overturned many laws permitting slavery. Indiana became a state in 1816, with slavery banned in its constitution.

In 1821, the Bank of Vincennes and the Vincennes Steam Mill failed, causing Nathaniel Ewing to withdraw to his home and farm. Vincennes began to languish after the outbreak of disease and the move of the territorial capital in 1813 to Corydon.

The entrance of the railroad after 1850 gave a boost to Knox County's agricultural economy, making markets more accessible for farmers. Homes and outbuildings grew larger in size and quantity. Farming expanded beyond the subsistence level. These changes were seen at Mont Clair with the expansion of the original house and the addition of a carriage house, summer kitchen and smaller outbuildings.

The railroads also made new building materials available. With increased prosperity in Knox County, the dawn of the twentieth century saw many prominent architects practice in the area. This resulted in an increase in buildings displaying architectural styles ("high style") rather than vernacular construction. As agriculture continued to thrive into the twentieth century in the area, Mont Clair followed suit. A farm manger's house, as well as larger barns for dairy and hay were built. In 1911, prominent architect Bayard led an extensive remodel of the original house into a Neoclassical building.

Agriculture continues to be an important part of the economy in Knox County. Mont Clair, now a bicentennial farm in the state of Indiana, continues to be operated to the present day as a successful farm.

Mont Clair
Name of Property

Knox County, IN
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

American State Papers, Land Claims in the District of Vincennes, Dec. 23, 1806, pages 267-269.

Bury Me in a Free Land, The Abolitionist Movement in Indiana, 1816-1865.

Correspondence from Badollet to Gallatin, March 27, 1809.

Correspondence from Badollet to Gallatin, Sept. 25, 1810

Correspondence from Ewing to Gallatin, June 26, 1810

Correspondence from Harrison to Gallatin, Aug. 29, 1809.

Deed Record 3, page 129.

Donald F. Carmony. <u>Indiana 1816-1850</u>, The Pioneer Era, 1998, pages 23-24.

George Green. History of Old Vincennes, page 323.

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. <u>Knox County Interim Report</u>. Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1997.

Journal of the House of Delegates of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Doc #6, page 7.

Knox Circuit Court Will Record B, page 522.

Knox County Deed Book 225, Jan. 16, 1986, page 22.

Knox County Deed Book 264, April 15, 1989, page 306.

Knox County Deed Book F, Vol. 2, Deed, Nov. 14, 1866, pages 182-183.

Knox County Deed Record 224, Nov. 7, 1985, page 508; Instrument 3403, recorded May 12,

2006; Instrument 9525 recorded Deed Book 281, December 18, 2001, page 181.

Knox County Deed Record 68, March 31, 1919, page 410.

Knox County Deed Record F, Vol. 2, June 27, 1831, page 175.

Knox County Deed Record F, Vol. 2, June 27, 1831, page 175.

Knox County Deeds #2012R03757, recorded July 24, 2012.

Knox County Deeds #2012R04880, recorded Sept. 4, 2012.

Knox County Gravel Road Record 1, page 28

Knox County Probate Court, Order Book "A", Oct. 5, 1938, page 283.

Knox County Probate Order Book 16-449, June 5, 1905.

Knox County Recorder Book E, Vigo to Ewing, March 16, 1822, pages 224-225.

Knox County Recorder Book O, McCord to Ewing, March 1, 1849, pages 433-434.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 Knox County, IN Mont Clair Name of Property County and State Knox County Tract Book (early), Township 3 North, Range 10 West Knox County Will Record 3, Jan. 22, 1946, page 46. Knox County, Indiana Deed Book A, Deed: Vigo to Ewing, pages 12-13 Letter from Nathaniel Ewing to Frederick Rapp posted Vincennes April 28, 1817. Letter from Nathaniel Ewing to George Rapp posted Vincennes March 8, 1815. Letter from Nathaniel Ewing to John L. Baker posted at Vincennes March 27, 1818. McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1986. Missouri Historical Society, Nathaniel Ewing to Dr. William Carr Lane posted at Vincennes, Jan. 22, 1822, Nov. 20, 1835, and March 20, 1825 and Sara Law to Mary Lane posted at Vincennes May 6, 1822. Missouri Historical Society. Ann Ewing to daughter, Mary Lane, Oct. 12, 1826 and Oct. 12, 1822. Palmyra Township Records, Appraisement of houses for the year 1808. Robert Buntin, Survey, 1807. William Henry Harrison Papers, Reel 3, pages 474-477. **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 # recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # **Primary location of additional data:** State Historic Preservation Office ____ Other State agency

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 083-227-25020

Name of repository:

____ Federal agency Local government

____ University
Other

Mont Clair		Knox County, IN
lame of Property		County and State
10. Geographical Data		
Acreage of Property _	483.91	
Use the UTM system		
UTM References Datum (indicated on US	CCS man):	
Datum (mulcated on OS		
NAD 1927 or	x NAD 1983	
. –		
1. Zone: 16	Easting: 45937	Northing: 4280392
2. Zone: 16	Easting: 460467	Northing: 4279016
3. Zone: 16	Easting: 459321	Northing: 4278191
4. Zone: 16	Easting : 458011	Northing: 4279294

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

Mont Clair consists of 483.91 acres and includes the lots with the legal descriptions: Pt Sur 29-3-10, Pt Sur 38, 29, 30&33-3-10 and Pt Sur 30 in Vincennes Township; and Pt Sur 1-3-9 and Pt Sur 30-3-9 in Palmyra Township.

The boundary and parcels are specifically denoted on the parcel map included with the nomination. Also see USGS map for boundary.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This is the boundary of the property that remains intact from the original land grant deeded to Nathaniel Ewing by President Thomas Jefferson around 1804. The farm lands retain integrity from the period of significance, as detailed in the nomination. The boundary includes the greatest amount of land still associated with the farmstead.

	County and State
Holscher_	
rm Rd	
state: IN	zip code: 47591
.com, jenniferholscl	her@yahoo.com
· ·	
	· Holscher rm Rd state: <u>IN</u> n.com, jenniferholscl

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.
- **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.)

Mont Clair

Name of Property

Knox County, IN
County and State

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: Mont Clair

City or Vicinity: Vincennes

County: Knox State: Indiana

Photographers: Lauren Ewing (Photos 1-25, 27-33), Jennifer Holscher (Photo 26)

Dates Photographed: September 1-9, 2009; March 21, 2014; April 20, 2014; April 6, 2016,

July 24, 2016

Locations of Original Digital Files: Computer of Lauren Ewing, Computer of Jennifer Holscher

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

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0001 Greek Revival/Neoclassical House, West facade

Camera facing northeast

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0002

Greek Revival/Neoclassical House, West facade, pediment detail Camera facing east

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0003

Greek Revival/Neoclassical House, South facade Camera facing north

IN KnoxCounty MontClair 0004

Greek Revival/Neoclassical House, North facade Camera facing south

IN KnoxCounty MontClair 0005

Greek Revival/Neoclassical House, Northeast facade Camera facing northwest Mont Clair
Name of Property

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County and State

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0006

Greek Revival/Neoclassical House, Northwest facade

Camera facing southwest

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0007

Greek Revival/Neoclassical House, Interior, entry hall and staircase detail

Camera facing east

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0008

Summer Kitchen and Lattice House, Northwest facade

Camera facing southeast

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0009

Summer Kitchen, Southeast facade

Camera facing northwest

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0010

Duck House, West facade

Camera facing east

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0011

Carriage House, Northwest corner

Camera facing southeast

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0012

Carriage House, West side

Camera facing east

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0013

Carriage House, South end interior

Camera facing north

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0014

Tool House, Northeast corner

Camera facing southwest

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0015

Equipment Barn

Camera facing southeast

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0016

Hay Barn, Southeast facade

Camera facing northwest

Mont Clair

Name of Property

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0017 Hay Barn, Northeast corner Camera facing southwest

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0018 Hay Barn, interior

Camera facing west

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0019

New Pump House Camera facing north

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0020

Farm Manager's House and Garage

Camera facing southwest

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0021

Farm Manager's House, Northwest corner

Camera facing southeast

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0022

Farm Manager's House, Southwest corner

Camera facing northeast

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0023

Chicken House, Smokehouse, Outhouse

Camera facing west

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0024

Greek Revival/Neoclassical House, Interior, living room

Camera facing west

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0025

Greek Revival/Neoclassical House, Interior, library, Bayard detail

Camera facing north

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0026

Landscape, Historic entrance road, ice pond

Camera facing east

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0027

Landscape, from north corner of property

Camera facing south

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0028

Knox County, IN

County and State

Mont Clair

Name of Property

Allee

Camera facing northwest

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0029 Old Pump House Camera facing north

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0030 New Barn Camera facing southwest

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0031 Historic Entrance Camera facing northeast

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0032 Landscape, from southwest corner of property Camera facing east

IN_KnoxCounty_MontClair_0033
Landscape, from northeast corner of property
Camera facing southwest

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.).

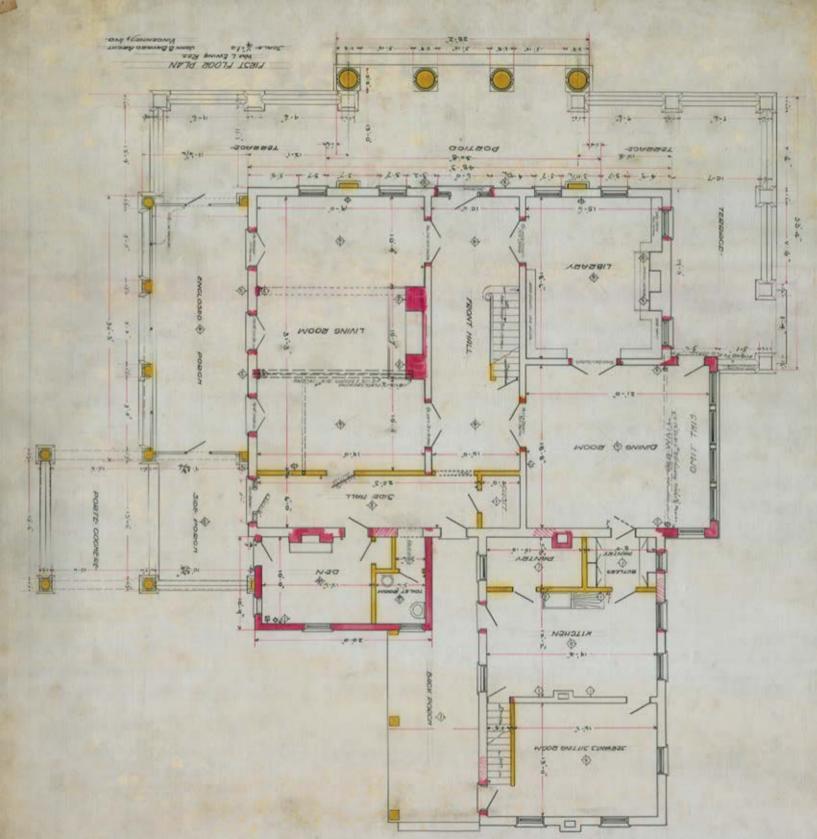
Knox County, IN

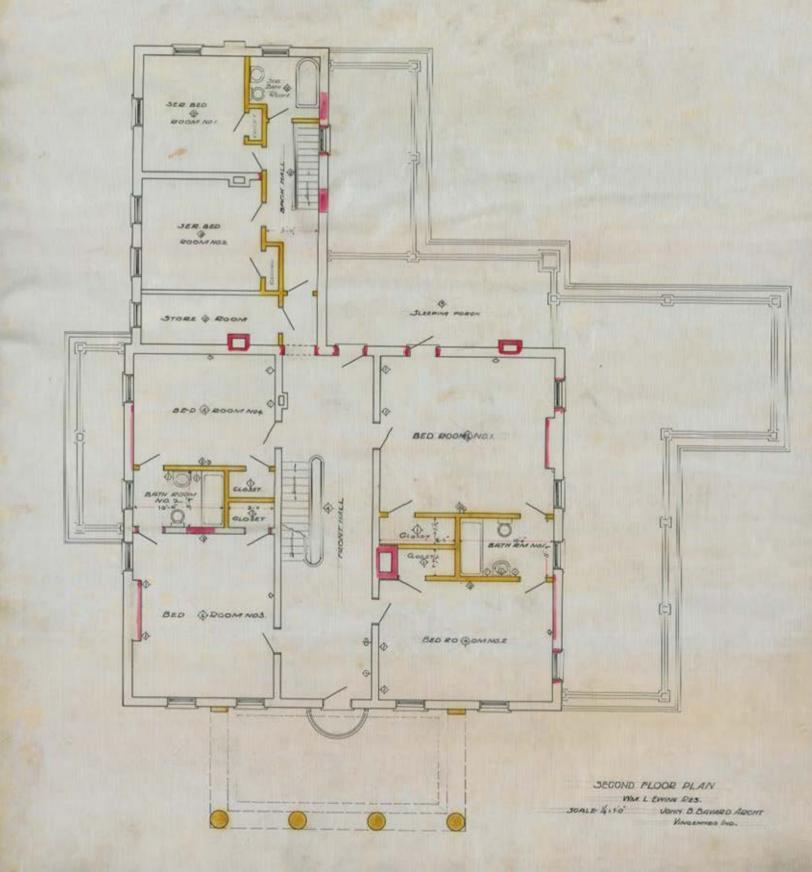
County and State

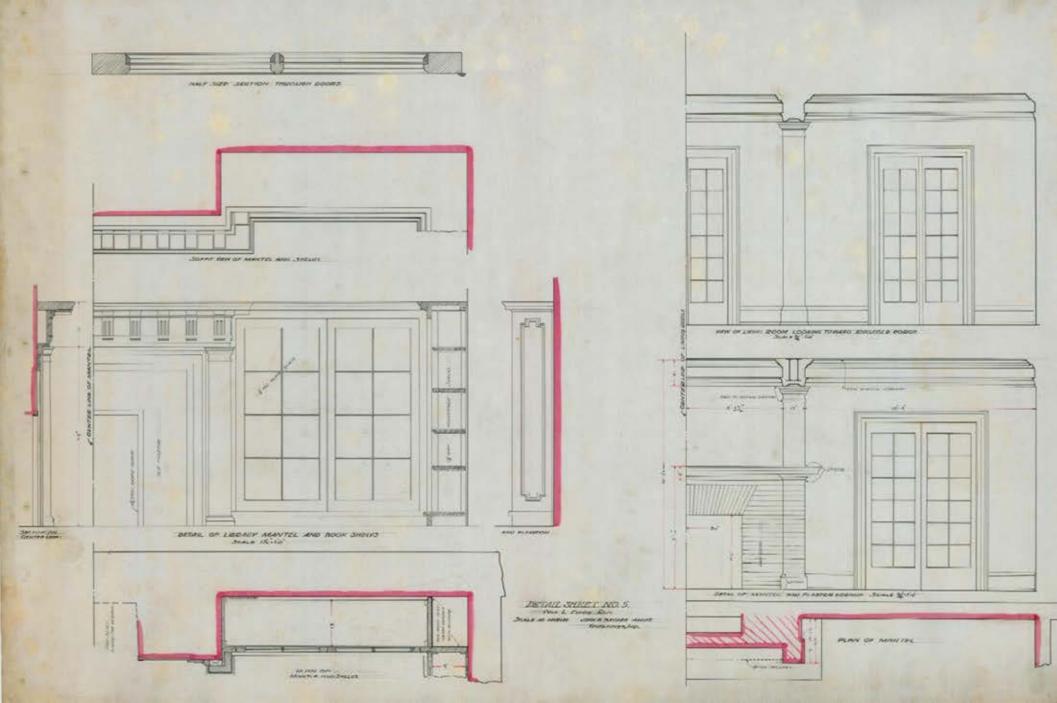
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form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

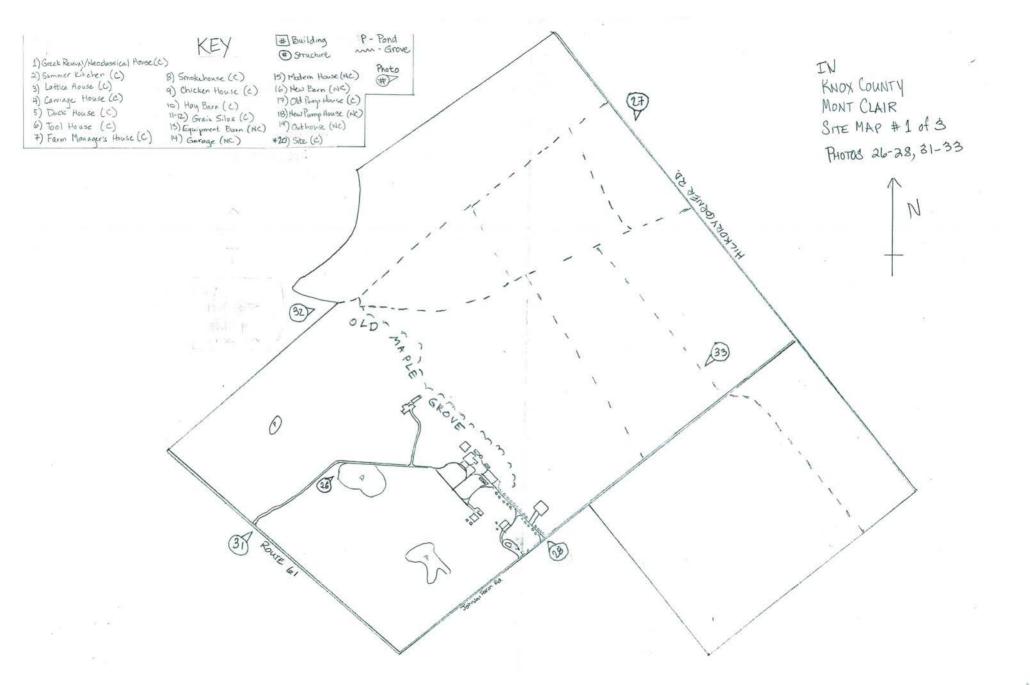


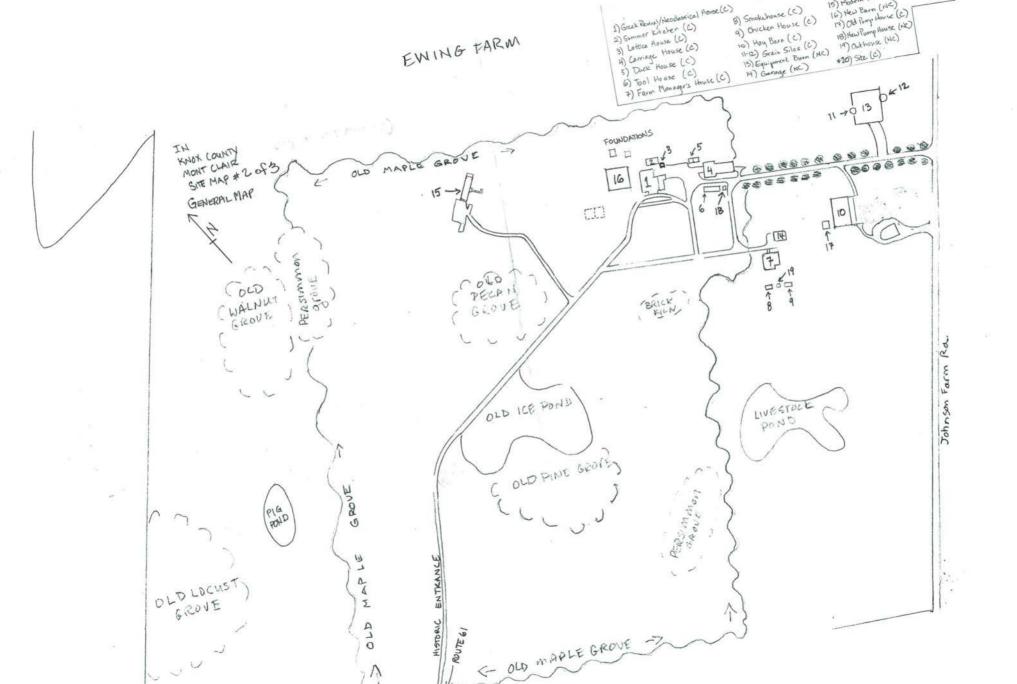


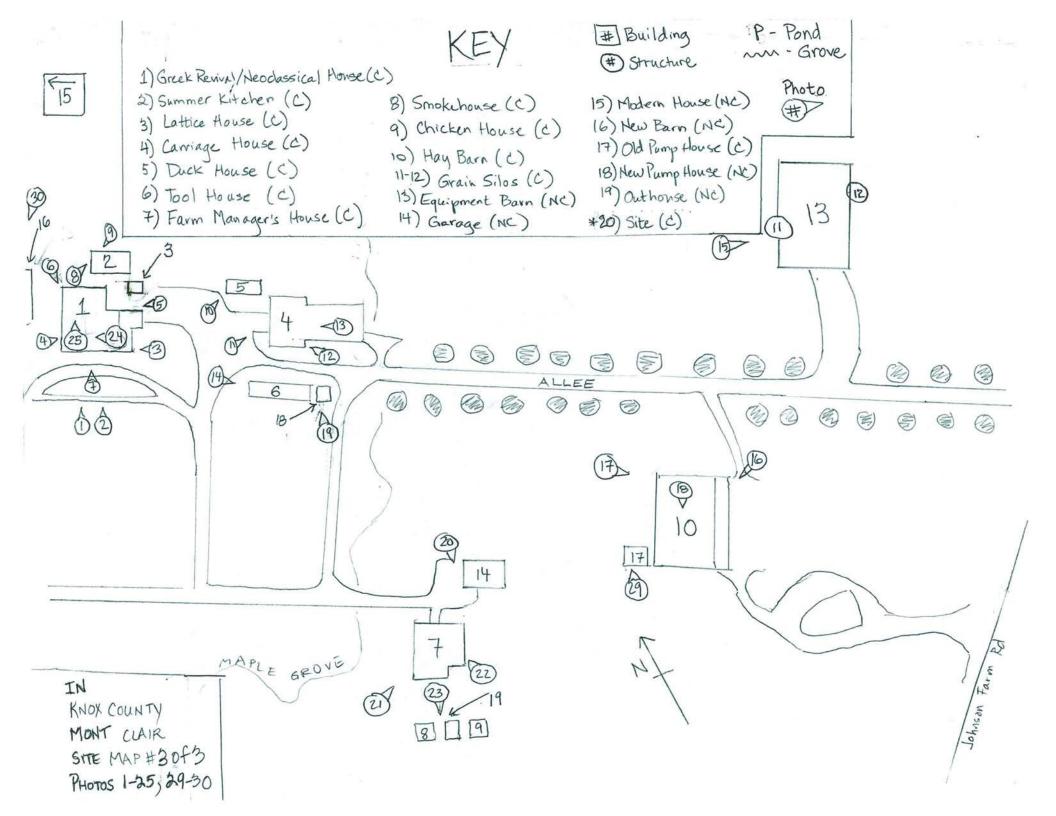


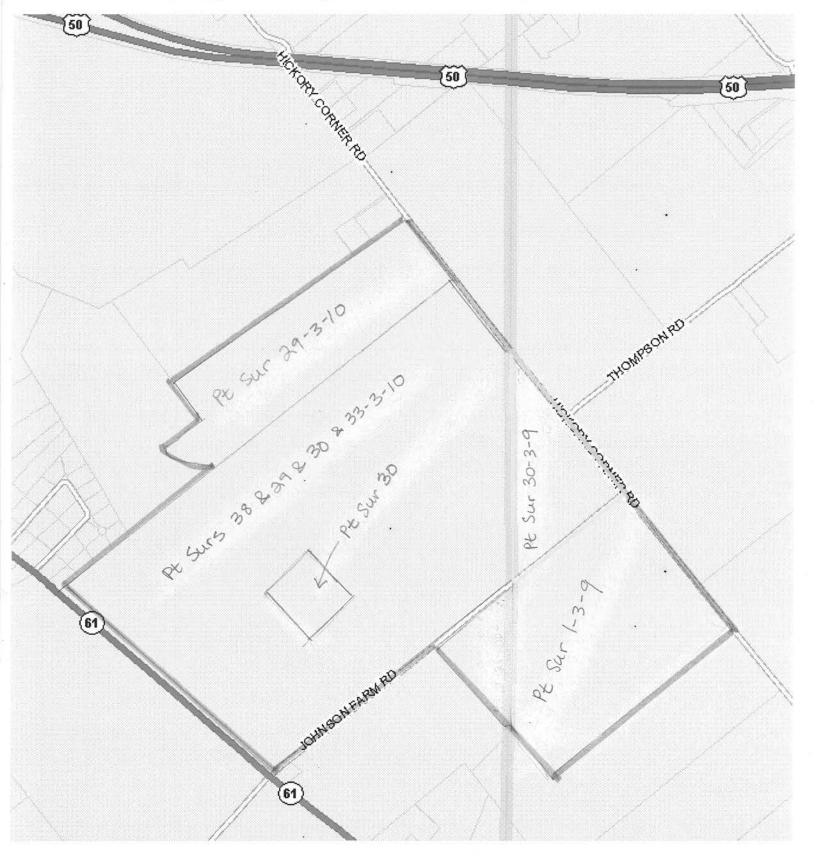




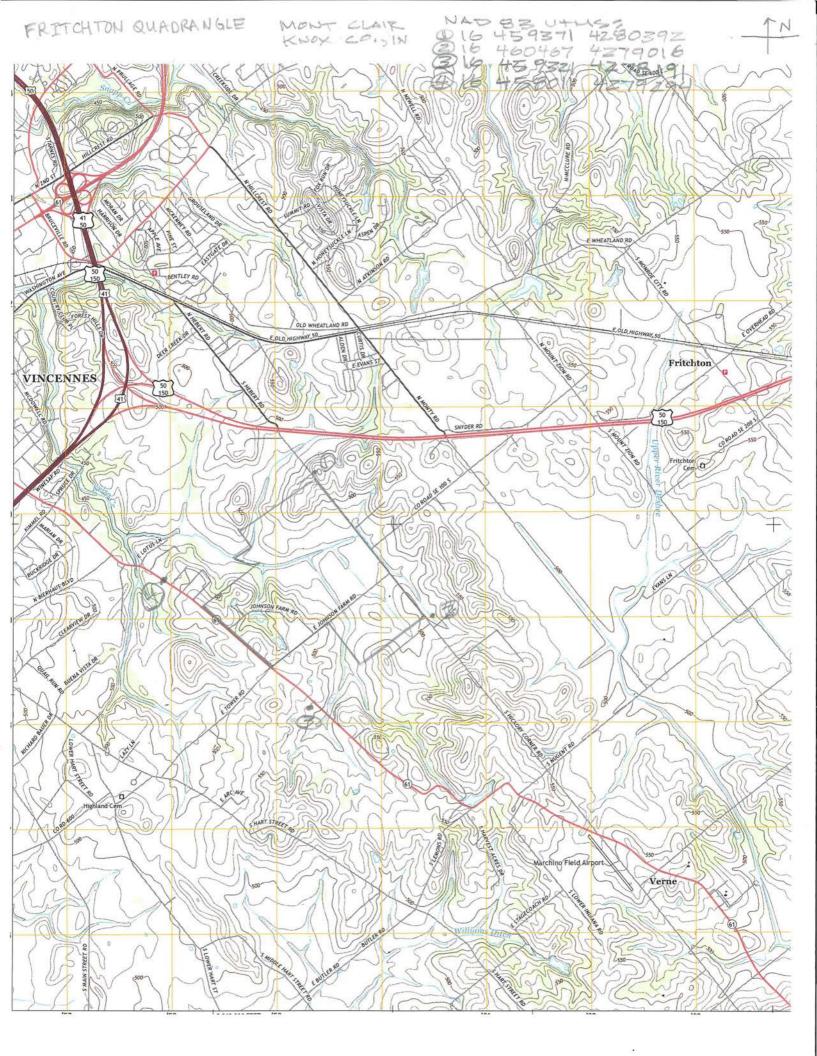








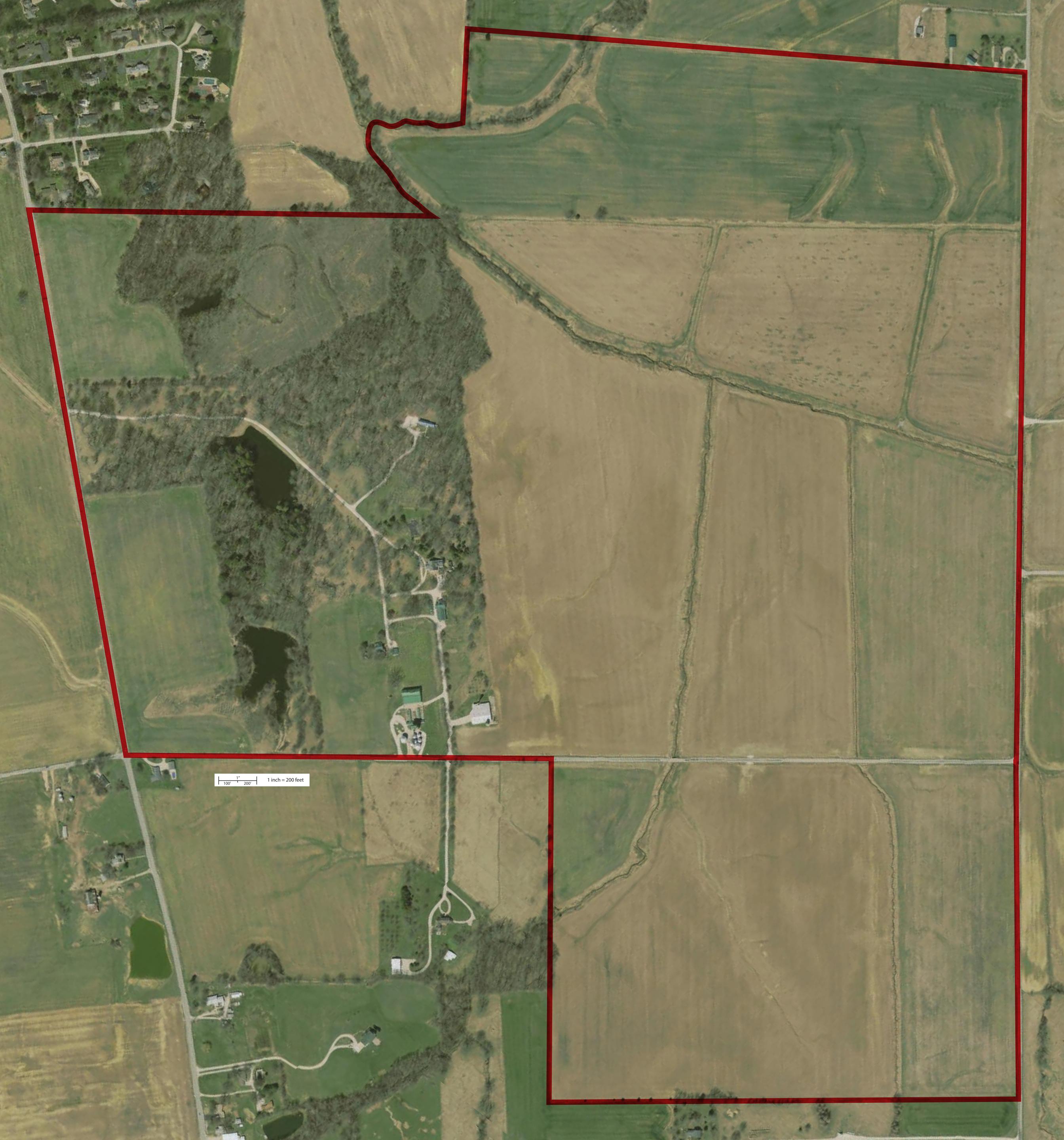
IN
KNOX COUNTY
MONTCLAIR
PARCEL MAP (BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION)













































































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination				
Property Name:	Mont Clair				
Multiple Name:					
State & County:	INDIANA, Knox				
Date Rece 11/10/20		Pending List: 12/2016	Date of 16th Day: 12/27/2016	Date of 45th Day: 12/27/2016	Date of Weekly List: 1/5/2017
Reference number:	16000904				
Nominator:	State				
Reason For Review					
X Accept	Return	R	eject <u>12/2</u>	27/2016 Date	
Abstract/Summary Comments:	Meets Registration Requirements				
Recommendation/ Criteria					
Reviewer Edson	Beall		Discipline	Historian	
Telephone			Date		
DOCUMENTATION	see attached	comments : No	see attached S	LR : No	

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



F. Clark, Director Natl. Reg. of Historic Places **National Park Service**

Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology•402 W. Washington Street, W274•Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739 Phone 317-232-1646+Fax 317-232-0693+dhpa@dnr,IN.gov+www.IN.gov/dnr/historic

November 3, 2016

Dr. Stephanie Toothman Keeper of the National Register National Park Service 2280 National Register of Historic Places 1201 "I" (Eye) Street, N.W. Washington D.C. 20005

Re: Mont Clair, Knox County, Indiana

Dear Dr. Toothman,

Enclosed is a National Register of Historic Places nomination for Mont Clair, Knox County, Indiana. The Indiana Historic Preservation Review Board reviewed the application and voted to recommend its approval to the National Register of Historic Places.

The enclosed disc contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for Mont Clair, (Knox County, Indiana) to the National Register of Historic Places.

Please address any questions you or your staff may have about this nomination to my National Register staff members, Paul Diebold or Holly Tate.

Sincerely,

Cameron F. Clark

State Historic Preservation Officer

Came F. Clac

CFC:PCD:pcd

enclosure: nomination package